Walsall & Willenhall
CHRONICLE
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Cost of casual workers at Manor on the increase

£2m IN A MONTH FOR NHS TEMPS

Report by Tom Oakley

A HOSPITAL trust spent almost £2 million on temporary staff in one month, it can be revealed.

Figures show that Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust is spending millions of pounds on the wages of temporary staff.

The trust, which runs Walsall Manor Hospital, paid out £1.8 million in such staffing costs in May.

Despite the figure falling from the previous month, it is £400,000 higher than the corresponding month in 2017.

A hospital board paper report says that the trust's overspending is being 'driven' by temporary staffing costs.

Over the last financial year, a total of £20,830,000 was spent on temporary staff.

And this is expected to rise this year, with a forecast of £22,867,000 by hospital bosses for the year 2018-19.

Non-executive director of the trust John Dunn expressed concerns at a public meeting of the board of directors in May.

Agreed

He said the full-year trajectory for spending on temporary staffing was 'worrying' and asked to ensure that the financial recovery plan was reviewed at the Performance, Finance and Investment Committee in June.

In response, chief executive of the trust, Richard Beeken, agreed with Mr Dunn and shared his concerns.

He added that work on reducing the temporary workforce was under way and it was hoped it could be alleviated through rota discipline and annual leave reviews.

The hospital trust was unable to respond to reporters' requests for comment before the Chronicle's deadline.

Back in 2015, when figures revealed temporary staff cost a similar amount – £1.46m – in one month, bosses took steps to reduce the amount of money used on temporary workers by launching a recruitment drive for new nurses.

According to the 2015 report, there was an overspend in nursing which had caused the cost to jump up £40,000 compared with the previous month.

HEAD OVER HEELS FOR FUN AT VILLAGE CARNIVAL

Crowds enjoy the sunshine at the Great Wyrley Carnival on the Star Field off Walsall Road

Bloxwich Gymnastics Club in action

THOUSANDS of people from all over the area flocked to a popular summer carnival over the weekend. Around 5,000 people enjoyed the glorious sunshine at Great Wyrley Carnival on Saturday, along with a host of fun activities, with South Staffs MP and Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson also making an appearance.

Pauline Kelsey, secretary of the Great Wyrley Carnival Committee, which organises the event each year, said: "We had an excellent afternoon. Of course the weather was beautiful. We're delighted with how the event went."

The floats in the procession were judged by chair of Great Wyrley Parish Council, Helen Snape, and vice-chairman Tony Newell.

The winners of the competition, which was themed on countries taking part in the 2018 World Cup, were Willenhall's St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, whose theme was Brazil. Second place was Great Wyrley Scout Group, with Saudi Arabia and third place was Great Wyrley Guides whose country was Mexico. The best dressed stall was handed to the Great Wyrley Townswomen's Guild and there was also a fancy dress competition for adults and children.

Preparations will soon be under way for 2019's Great Wyrley Carnival – and Mrs Kelsey is appealing for members of the public to come forward and help. She added: "We have only a small committee so are always looking for volunteers to join up." Anyone who would like to help out should call 01922 414647.

Freya Thursfield, aged seven, from Walsall Wood, with raffle winnings

HEATWAVE

Police warn yobs as grass fires hit region

YOBS are causing chaos by starting fires on grassland around the Black Country as the heatwave continues.

Police have warned they will be targeting those starting fires in the open as forecasters said the hot weather is set to continue.

A fire was started near a cycle path off Station Road, Rushall, on Sunday, with others causing chaos at Kinver Edge and Hickman Park in Bilston. Temperatures were set to hit 30C (86F) in places this week.

Police tweeted: "Be warned, if we find out who sets these fires they will most certainly be dealt with by police."

Firefighters have also continued to battle a large-scale blaze on the Staffordshire Moorlands. Up to 45 firefighters were in attendance at one point on Sunday.

RAILWAYS

Buses set to replace trains on line again

TRAIN travellers are set to face problems on the Chase Line as work continues on the electrification of the route.

Train services will be affected between Birmingham New Street and Rugeley Trent in July and August.

On Sunday, buses will replace trains between Tame Bridge Parkway and Rugeley Trent Valley, affecting stations in Bescot, Walsall, Bloxwich, Landywood, Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley.

The same will apply on August 5, August 12, August 19 and August 26.

● Electrification – Page 5

PARADE

Delays for drivers due to festivities

DRIVERS will experience delays as main roads will be closed from 1.30pm to 3pm for Pelsall Carnival on Saturday.

The parade will go along Allens Lane, Walsall Road, Norton Road, Wolverhampton Road, Highfield Road, High Street and Norton Road before completing its route in Church Road. All these roads and side roads will be closed to traffic.

INSIDE

Thank you for the days, Charlotte

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Admiring the magnificent motors in Dudley town centre as part of the festival

Kerry Pike from Birmingham in a 1953 Bentley at the classic car show

Black Country Festival off to a sizzling start

THE Black Country Festival got off to a bostin' start at the weekend.

Thousands flocked to events, from road runs to classic car shows and fun days, as the month-long celebrations got under way.

On Saturday around 1,000 people attended the Gornal Fun Day. Basking in the sunshine, families enjoyed face painting, fair rides, stalls, a birds of prey display and a battle reenactment group. Joan Porter, one of the organisers, said: "The whole event went really well and the weather was brilliant."

The same day crowds lined the streets to see a cavalcade of classic cars parade along the High Street in Dudley as part in the second Dudley Classic Car Show, with a display of 29 vehicles. The magnificent motors included a Rolls Royce, an Aston Martin and two E-type Jaguars. Organiser John Emms said: "Lots said they were really pleased they had come as they said they hadn't visited Dudley for years.

Mayor

On Sunday runners braved sweltering conditions to take on the Black Country Road Run – including West Midlands mayor Andy Street, blind fundraising legend Dave Heeley and Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris – which took place around Halesowen and was organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Alan Bowler, one of the organisers, said: "There might have been a few people who were put off by the desperately hot weather but we probably had about 1,000 people come along. The feedback has been really positive."

The Black Country Festival, now in its fifth year, runs until July 29, with Black Country Day on July 14. A street food festival is at Stourbridge's Bonded Warehouse on Friday and Halesowen Carnival at Highfield Park on Saturday, the same day as the Chain Makers Festival in Cradley Heath, Tividale Park and Netherton Park fun days. Stourbridge Carnival is on Sunday.

Mayor Andy Street, Blind Dave Heeley and MP James Morris took part in the Black Country Road Run

Owl man Karl Perry brought Boo to Gornal Fun Day

Made up – Maddison Sharp, six, enjoyed Gornal Fun Day

Driver gets jail term put on hold over rider's death

A DRIVER has admitted causing the death of a Willenhall grandfather by careless driving on a winding road in Wales. Gordon Finlay was given a 27-week jail sentence suspended for two years after admitting the charge.

A court heard he caused the death of motorcyclist Malcolm Willis by veering into a gully and then oversteering into his path. Finlay, aged 59, was also handed a two-year ban and will need to take an extended test before he can drive again.

Mold Crown Court heard Mr Willis, 67, was killed on a winding road near, Aberhosan, Machynlleth, in May last year. David Mainstone, prosecuting, said Mr Willis was an experienced and careful biker. But Mr Mainstone said Mr Willis had been unable to avoid a collision with a Citroen Picasso driven by Finlay. The car overturned in a field, and Mr Willis was thrown from his machine.

The crash was witnessed by his partner Annis Spinks, 62. "The day before the accident we had made plans for the future," she said. "Now I have nothing."

The prison van driver said: "Mac never stood a chance that day."

Mr Mainstone said Finlay, of Ffordd Alban, Tywyn, Gwynedd, crawled from his upturned car. But Mr Willis died at the scene of multiple injuries.

Philip Clemo, mitigating, said Finlay was extremely ill and would be 'wracked with guilt and the pain he's caused for the rest of his life'.

Judge Rhys Rowlands told Finlay there was no suggestion of excessive speed but for an unknown reason his car had veered into a shallow gully and then swerved across the road. The judge said Mr Willis was a 'totally responsible' motorcyclist.

Cash machines are disappearing

MORE than five free-to-use cash machines are being taken off the streets of the Black Country every month as a result of bank branches being shut.

Experts are now warning that rural villagers may soon face difficulties obtaining money. The figures come as part of the study into the impact of bank branch closures. In November there were 1,440 cash dispensers in the Black Country, but now there are 1,408, according to consumer group Which?

Walsall saw the biggest rate drop, down from 333 to 318, followed by Dudley, 369 to 356 and Sandwell, 387 to 381. Wolverhampton saw a small increase, from 351 to 353. In Essington, there are no ATMs. The nearest is at the Scotlands, Wolverhampton or Wednesfield.

Parish Council chairman Peter Lever said: "Shops depend on money being spent so it would help to have somewhere to get the cash."

Stem cell donor gets permission to visit UK

A WALSALL mother who urgently needs a transplant to survive a rare blood cancer has been given hope after her "perfect" stem cell match brother was granted a temporary visa to visit the UK.

Joseph Kordie was denied a visa to help Shirley, aged 33, who has hypoplastic MDS and will leave her son without a mother if she is not treated.

Following a 78,000-signature petition by The Anthony Nolan Trust and the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT), The Home Office said it has issued a six-month visa and was working with him so he can travel as "soon as possible". Ms Kordie, who has been living with the disease for the past seven years, said the news gives her "comfort".

"With this news I now know there is hope for myself, my son and the future," she said.

Her brother Mr Kordie works as a nurse and lives in Ghana. Doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham have told Ms Kordie she urgently needs a stem cell transplant to survive. At the moment she is entirely reliant on blood transfusions to reduce her life-threatening anaemia.

There were no other options for a donor on the international stem cell registers, and no way for Mr Kordie to donate in Ghana – so her best chance was for her brother to be allowed to come to the UK and donate.

Trader to pay £61k over fake ciggies

TRADING Standards chiefs have said they are 'pleased' a Wolverhampton shopkeeper jailed for selling illegal cigarettes has been ordered to pay back £61,000.

Arkani Muradi, aged 37, from Great Barr, was jailed in June 2017 for two years and two months for evading £58,675 in tax. Muradi, owner of Euro Shop in Whitmore Reans stored almost 400,000 cigarettes at the premises behind false walls, under floorboards, beneath a fridge, inside an oven and in a hole in one of the walls.

He has been ordered to pay back the profit he earned for selling illegal tobacco or face another year behind bars. Officers from Wolverhampton Trading Standards and HMRC raided the shop between 2014 and 2015.

Blakemore wins

DARLASTON'S Blakemore Foodservice won a prize at the annual HIM Wholesale Awards in London.

The division of Willenhall-based A F Blakemore and Sons landed the award for favourite wholesaler.

TV appeal made to find Arthur's killers

Robbery target – Arthur Gumbley

AN appeal to catch the killers of a pensioner who was attacked in a violent robbery was made on BBC's Crimewatch. Arthur Gumbley, aged 87, died in hospital three weeks after the attack at his home in Little Aston, near Sutton Coldfield.

Detectives called on people with information about the grandfather's death to 'do the right thing'.

Footage was shown on last week's Crimewatch Roadshow of Arthur, who was known as Bob, recalling the horror in hospital shortly before he died. A number of cherished items were stolen in the robbery last November including a ring which was ripped from his finger and a Henry VIII Angel gold coin which police are keen to trace.

Five people have been arrested in connection with Arthur's death but nobody has yet been charged. A £40,000 reward has been put up for information that leads to a conviction.

Det Insp Dan Ison, the senior investigating officer, said: "The men that carried this out on Arthur didn't just do this accidentally they went in there with the intention of causing him harm and that's what they did so this is a murder investigation.

"My appeal to people is there is somebody out there who is responsible for Arthur's death. There's a £40,000 reward for any information we receive that will lead to a conviction. What I would like to say to those people, ask yourself if that was your father what's the right thing to do and the right thing to do is to make contact with us and talk to us."

Arthur's daughter Sue Boys said: "The end of somebody's life is not supposed to be like that."

'Toxic' fake dolls racket lands couple in prison

A CROOKED couple were each given 10-month jail terms for peddling counterfeit goods, including fake Disney dolls, some of which were potentially toxic.

Lee Scully, aged 38 and Tracey Cockbill, 40, ignored repeated official warnings and switched to the Facebook Trade and Sell website when Amazon removed their selling rights amid concern about the items they dealt with, a judge heard.

The pair hawked fake Disney Frozen and Cinderella dolls together with Android TV boxes – using the advertising slogan ' Free Sky TV for ever' – and Android tables carrying false trademarks, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Analysis of dolls sold by them found the level of phthalates – a chemical that gives flexibility to plastic models which children can put in their mouth – was at least 20 per cent. It should not have had a concentration greater than 0.1 per cent. A sample Android charger sold by the defendants failed safety checks because of its pin configuration, it was said.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Trading Standards Department, explained: "We do not say they sold the items knowing they were toxic but they ran an internet business on a commercial scale. Through it they sold unsafe counterfeit dolls that were potentially toxic and electrical products that were also unsafe. These sales continued despite warnings from Trading Standards."

Scully and Cockbill were officially told about the dangers of dealing with fake goods in January 2013 and September 2014, respectively. Mr Iain Suggett, defending, told the court: "This was not counterfeit from the outset. They have fallen foul of their own ignorance."

Scully and Cockbill, previously of Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge but now living in Prestatyn, Wales each admitted eight offences involving breaches of copyright, trademark, toy safety and electrical safety rules.

They were jailed by Judge Barry Berlin who concluded: "They exploited well known brands and ignored warnings."

Richard celebrates farm's fruity 40th

Owner of Essington Fruit Farm, Richard Simkin and grandchildren Edward aged five, and Thomas, three

A FAMILY-RUN farm near Willenhall is celebrating 40 years of growing and picking fresh strawberries. Essington Farm has been growing the tasty red fruit and supplying them to the local community since 1978.

Owner Richard Simkin said the fun, family activity of strawberry picking has definitely become more popular in the last five years.

He said: "It's important young children see and understand where and how fruit is grown, an experience you definitely don't get in a supermarket. You can enjoy the freshness and flavour of the fruit." He said the act of strawberry picking itself has changed over the last 40 years. In the early 1980s people bought more of the fruit as they had larger freezers and there were fewer large chain supermarkets that sold strawberries all year round.

But now, people come to pick them for the fun of it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three men held after police chase

THREE men have been arrested after a spate of Tesco stores were raided in the region.

Stores in Aldridge, Rowley Regis and Handsworth were targeted in the early hours last Thursday.

A large quantity of cash and cigarettes were stolen from the shops but the tracker in a stolen cash box alerted officers to a location in Handsworth Wood Road.

Three men, aged 25, 33 and 34, were later arrested on suspicion of burglary and were held in custody.

West Midlands Police is appealing for anyone who saw the incident to contact them on 101.

Debut of delights for blooming bid

THE sun shone brightly as Britain in Bloom judges arrived in Essington to assess its first entry in the competition. Organiser and parish councillor, James Slim hoped villagers' hard work had paid off following the visit last week.

Work has included creating gardens at the village church and school as well as cleaning the parish's Millennium Stone. Litter pickers have also been hard at work clearing the village of rubbish.

Results of Britain in Bloom will be announced on September 20.

Delays warning at busy junction

DRIVERS are being warned to face disruption as work to carry out essential maintenance and improvements to one of Birmingham's busiest road junctions gets under way.

The works at Dartmouth Circus are expected to take eight weeks – with a proposed end date of September 3. Birmingham City Council, Transport for West Midlands and Highways England are working together to co-ordinate schemes and minimise the disruption.

Work will be carried out 24 hours a day.

Beach back in West Brom at square

NEW Square Shopping Centre in West Bromwich is to run a summer school holiday programme of family entertainment.

The Summer Fun events run at the town centre shops complex from July 21 to September 2 between 11am and 5pm each day. It will include a beach area with deckchairs and a fair with rides and games. There will be a chance to win prizes and discounts from shops and restaurants.

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COUNTY NEWS

Motability show to feature 100 cars

THE country's biggest display of vehicles for disabled people will set up home at Birmingham's NEC at The Big Event.

Taking place tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, it offers disabled motorists and their families the chance to investigate the Motability Scheme, with free admission and free parking.

Free to attend and with free parking, it is the Motability Scheme's flagship event this summer.

The Motability Scheme provides affordable motoring to more than 600,000 disabled customers and their families. More details are available at motability.co.uk/thebigevent.

Drug driving up over two years

DRUG-DRIVING offences in the West Midlands have more than doubled in just two years, according to new research.

A total of 1,231 drivers were charged with driving under the influence of drugs in 2017, up from 533 in 2015.

This includes consumption of illegal, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, which could have an impact on a motorist's ability to drive, such as chlorphenamine, hydroxyzine or promethazine – all types of antihistamines to curb symptoms of hay fever.

In total, more than 6,300 UK drivers have been caught under the influence of drugs in 2017.

Investment brings jobs to the region

OVERSEAS firms pumping money into West Midlands businesses helped create more than 9,400 jobs last year, new figures reveal.

Despite fears over the impact of Brexit talks, the latest figures from the Department for International Trade show increasing numbers of new projects involving foreign direct investment, or FDI.

There were 171 new projects across the region last year – the most for three years, bringing in 9,424 jobs.

Baggies' Bob tees up top golf prize

FORMER Baggies goalkeeper Bob Ward won a charity golf day made up of ex-players. Mr Ward, who made 10 appearances for West Bromwich Albion from 1973 to 1977, took part in the annual golf day at Walsall Golf Club.

It was organised by the West Bromwich Albion Former Players Association. The team winner was one made up of workers at CPC Civils Ltd in Solihull.

Send your prom prints – and princesses

THE school discos of our yesteryear are well and truly assigned to the history books for the modern generation.

When school's out for students today they do not head for the hall in jeans and T-shirt to enjoy warm pop and a 'funky' teacher hitting the decks. Instead, they put on their ballgowns and black tie glamour for a night to remember – the school prom.

Dress hunting is a serious business as all girl wants to be the belle of the ball. And it's not just about dressing to impress. Transport is almost as important as youngsters strive to make the biggest impression.

So how much is this fairytale once-in-a-lifetime evening likely to set parents back? Well latest figures suggest we will spend an average of £500 on a daughter for prom night – and many will spend that on the dress alone. But with a tear in their eye and proudly clicking away with the camera, most parents will no doubt think it is money well spent.

Send us your pictures from these milestone events and we will carry as many as possible in the paper.

Email your picture with names of those in the snapshot as well as details of the school and where the event was to sue.attwater@expressandstar.co.uk

School proms season is upon us

Quirky display marks a medical milestone

By Charlotte Callear

A BLACK Country hospital is marking today's 70th anniversary of the NHS with a special exhibition featuring a collection of medical equipment from the 1800s.

From camphorated oil used to treat inflammation, to oxygen tubes designed to look like glasses, the artefacts are made up of items from historian and former nurse Roy Stallard.

The avid collector has a display in the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, set up to mark the milestone.

Among the display, there is a bedpan, enema set, ear syringe, thermometer and more, along with black and white photographs that provide a look into healthcare in the 1800s.

There are two display units which will open from noon until 2pm for visitors to view. In a couple of months, this will later be expanded into a permanent display with 300 artefacts. He said: "I have a lot of pride in the NHS, it is an underfunded but wonderful institution.

"The hospital approached me and said they are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the NHS and asked if I would like to do something. I am delighted it will be a permanent exhibition."

The 84-year-old started training as a nurse as part of the medical corps for his national service in Germany in 1952. After two years with the Royal Army Medical Core's military hospital, he left and landed the job at the Royal in 1954 to train.

Mr Stallard and hospital staff were interviewed earlier this month by children from Fibbersley Park Academy, in Willenhall, as part of the trust's anniversary celebrations.

They took part in a variety of activities where they could learn about the NHS which was established on July 5 in 1948.

Glyn says wheel go on trek, with his wife

A 140-MILE bike ride over a gruelling coastal route is difficult enough but coupled with the sizzling heatwave we are experiencing it has been a challenge for even seasoned Willenhall fundraiser Glyn Marston – not to mention his wife.

Angie decided to join her husband on the C2C (sea to sea) ride for charity despite being a novice in the saddle.

The couple, from New Invention in Willenhall, set off last Tuesday from Whitehaven on the northwest coast and arrived, after taking in the North Pennines, at Tynemouth in the north east on Friday.

They have raised more than £700 already for charity Bloodwise with more to come. Angie has taken on the challenge in memory of her father Arthur who died after being diagnosed with blood cancer.

Angie Marston, celebrates reaching the top of the gruelling Hartside Summit

Experienced

The first day she and Glyn rode from Whitehaven to Keswick, day two was a 44-mile ride to Alston (via the Lake District) and the energy-sapping ride to the Hartside summit. Day three they had only 22 miles to ride, but was the toughest day of hill climbing to get to Stanhope. He said: "As an experienced long distance cyclist, this was about my wife achieving a goal in her life and for a cause close to her heart.

"The hill climbs were punishing but the heatwave we were having at the time was to add to the difficulty of the challenge.

"We reached Keswick and the first 31 miles finished in a longer time than expected (due to the heat) and I was now beginning to realise that I was going to find this challenge a little more difficult than I had expected. On day two we left Keswick early in a bid to beat the hot weather that had been predicted for the day, but after an hour of cycling we were feeling the effects of the heat and humidity.

Glyn seen at the end of the C2C ride

"From Keswick and through Penrith we were to tackle the dreaded Hartside Summit, a 1200ft ascent and this took a lot of energy out of us but luckily the free-wheeling down to Alston was rewarding.

The 54-year-old continued: "Friday, the final day was a great day, not only were we riding on a constant slight descent – we were also not too far from a place of refreshments and we were getting near to the finish at a faster pace than expected.

"But we reached the finish, no monument in Tynemouth (as there was in Whitehaven) to signify an official finish line but the traditional 'dipping the bike wheel' in the sea was the official sign of completion of cycling from the Irish sea to the North sea across England."

And despite their aches and pains it is not over yet for the couple who tackle the RideLondon 100-mile event at the end of the month.

MPs' fears on plan for Heathrow expansion

THREE Black Country Labour MPs have opposed plans to expand Heathrow Airport on the grounds that it will have a detrimental impact on Birmingham Airport, after official figures showed there will be 17,000 fewer flights a year there by 2030.

One of them, Emma Reynolds, the Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, said a second runway in Birmingham could boost the West Midlands economy and bring jobs, investment and growth to the area.

"Birmingham Airport is already connected to the motorway network and the West Coast Mainline which makes it one of the most easily accessible airports in the country," she said. "This Government has yet again failed to consider the economic needs of the West Midlands region."

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz also voted against the runway. She said the Government had failed to demonstrate the expansion of Heathrow met four key teats: that it can effectively deliver on capacity demands; that noise and air quality issues are fully addressed; that the UK's climate change obligations are met and that growth across the country is supported.

Ms Vaz said she was concerned over a potential huge loss of passengers to Birmingham Airport.

Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson also voted against the Heathrow expansion.

In a statement issued before the vote Birmingham Airport urged the Government to help it grow by improving transport links in the West Midlands, instead of 'focusing narrowly on connectivity to Heathrow'.

BGT stars due at relaunch of hall

BRITAIN'S Got Talent stars are set to head to Darlaston to dazzle crowds of their fans. This year's winner, the Lost Voice Guy Lee Ridley, runner-up Robert White, and finalist Mickey P Kerr, will all be performing at the relaunch of Darlaston Town Hall.

It will take place on December 9 and will also feature CAN Comedy brothers from Wednesbury, Andy and Paul Nightingale, who are promoting the event and will host the show as The Cheeky Blinders. Andy said "We genuinely cannot wait to host the night and see all three finalists on our stage, our aim has always been to bring world class comics to our area at affordable prices."

Tickets went on sale from 9.30am this morning. Go to the website www.wegottickets.com/event/443734.

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M&S chiefs may have to pay millions for closure

MARKS & Spencer could be forced to pay Walsall Council millions of pounds if they want to quit the town, it has been claimed.

Council leader Mike Bird said the high street giant had more than 100 years left to run on its lease – up to 2129 – at the town's Saddlers Centre and could now be made to pay a 'substantial' sum to get out of it.

It comes as any lingering hopes of keeping M&S in the town were dashed following a crunch meeting when company bosses said they were adamant the store would close.

Councillor Bird said the loss of the big-name retailer was 'disappointing' and warned there would now have to be discussions about the company's departure. Walsall Council confirmed the lease runs into the next century and the leader claimed it could mean the retailer having to pay the authority in order to exit it.

Another option could be for M&S to sublet out its store to another tenant, Councillor Bird said.

It was revealed last week the shop would shut its doors for the final time on August 11 after 84 years in Walsall, putting nearly 100 jobs at risk.

Councillor Bird said: "We had a meeting and they are adamant that the store will close. At the end of the day the lease is until 2129 so if they are hell-bent on leaving the town they will have to negotiate."

Carl cycling for family charity

A FUNDRAISER from Walsall is getting on his bike to cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End for charity.

Carl Adams, aged 43, is cycling the gruelling route for Ronald McDonald House Charities, the independent charity, which provides free 'home away from home' accommodation to families with sick children in hospitals across the UK.

Mr Adams, from Walsall, will start his ride on September 28, 2019. He is hoping to raise more than £10,000. To date there are 14 Ronald McDonald Houses in the UK and in 2016 they helped support over 7,000 families. He said: "After raising £15.000 for Birmingham Children's hospital in 2016, I now wanted to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald houses."

Marston's deal

BREWERY group Marston's has won a new five-year distribution deal with an American craft brewer.

The Wolverhampton-based business will distribute Founders Brewing Company's beers across the UK.

All change! As Metro trams get the blues

The rebranded blue Metro tram

IT'S all change for Metro services in the Black Country. Trams will be sporting a new blue look after the service was brought back into local authority control.

The striking blue trams will be seen pulling into stations having undergone a rebrand.

The service will now be known as West Midlands Metro and will be run by Midland Metro Ltd, part of the region's combined authority. White and pink carriages have become a familiar sight over the years for commuters. The change comes after 18 years of the service being run by National Express. Passengers are being promised lower fares and new ticket packages now it is under the control of the combined authority.

Midland Metro Ltd is a new operating company that has been set up to run the tram service and will be wholly owned by the WMCA.

It comes as major work is being carried out to extend the line into Wolverhampton city centre. Another £200 million extension will see the metro head into Dudley for the first time, via Tipton and Merry Hill.

On the way out – the pink look

Rail line electrification warning to youngsters

CHILDREN living between Walsall and Rugeley have been warned to stay off railway lines as a section of track is due to be electrified for the first time.

The line is being upgraded by Network Rail, and the firm's community safety team visited schools as part of the scheme – which will see electric trains running between the two destinations.

During the visits, primary and secondary school age children have been learning about the dangers of trespassing on the railway and the new threat of 25,000-volt overhead line equipment – and the devastating consequences of getting too close or coming into contact with the electrified wires.

Lisa Lewis, community safety manager at Network Rail, said: "Safety is our priority and we've already delivered our presentation to more than 4,000 young people in schools. The sessions are doing a fantastic job at highlighting the very real dangers of playing and trespassing on the railway.

"The sessions focus on safety and young people learn more about the overhead line equipment which is used to power trains. Once installed, electrified wires are always switched on – even when there are no trains passing. They carry 25,000 volts of electricity, which can be fatal. Our message is simple – never trespass on the railway for any reason."

Network Rail has also teamed up with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, supporting their Safe+Sound Programme in Cannock and Rugeley. Presentations will be delivered to 850 Year 6 pupils at Rugeley and Cannock Fire Stations, focusing on fire safety, water safety, internet safety, what to do in an emergency, and rail safety.

Helen Wood, business development manager at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, said the organisation was happy to be working with the community on such imortant issues.

She added: "We are proud to be supporting communities to make informed and positive lifestyle choices; improving their health, safety and wellbeing."

Village tales of jungle booked up

Pelsall pupils Bradley Hayes and Ruby Woolaston as Baloo and Shere Khan, ready for the carnival

YOUNGSTERS will be taking a walk on the wild side as they take part in a carnival.

Pupils from Pelsall Village School recently performed Disney's Jungle Book as their summer production – and they will be getting their costumes and props out again for the annual event.

The children performed to parents, staff and residents during their summer spectacular this month after joining an amateur dramatics group.

They will now take part in Pelsall Carnival on Saturday. Assistant headteacher Sallyann Tuckwell-Allen said: "Our summer production went really well – it was fantastic. We received so much positive feedback from our audiences, who are asking us to do another performance. We purchased the production rights from Disney and it all started as a musical theatre workshop which was open to everyone in the school."

NEWS IN BRIEF

2,000 potholes across borough

MORE than 2,000 potholes have been reported across part of the Black Country in the first six months of the year, new figures have revealed.

A Freedom of Information request to Sandwell Council – which covers Wednesbury – showed that 2,103 potholes were reported to the local authority between January 1 and June 11 this year – nearly double compared with the same period in 2017.

In 2017, between January 1 and June 30, there were 1,320 individual potholes reported. Cabinet member for highways and environment, Councillor David Hosell, said money was being invested in road repairs.

Water supplies hit after bursts

WATER supplies to homes were hit in Great Barr as engineers worked to make repairs to burst mains. Motorists were urged to avoid Chapel Lane after a main burst last Tuesday.

Drivers faced rising flood water and the lane has remained partially closed.

South Staffs Water confirmed it was also dealing with a burst main on Birmingham Road and Beechwood Road on the Whitecrest Estate.

A spokesman advised customers: "Following restoration you may experience yellow or brown water. Please run your cold kitchen tap for 20 minutes and this should clear."

Tata Steel agrees Thyssenkrupp deal

GERMAN steel production firm Thyssenkrupp has reached an agreement on a European joint venture with Tata Steel. The firms, which both have sites in the Black Country, signed on Saturday.

They will combine their European steel businesses in a 50/50 venture. The new company will be known as Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel, but the final deal is subject to merger control clearance. Tata Steel chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran said: "We are confident that this company will create value for all stakeholders in it."

Junction journey for town ramblers group

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Fradley Junction, near Lichfield for a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday. This is a moderate walk on canal towpaths and farm tracks.

Non-members are always welcome. More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 07860 827 937. General details can be obtained on the website www.walsallramblers.org.uk and on Facebook and Twitter.

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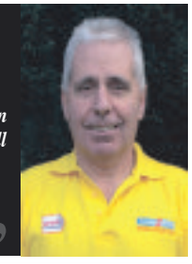

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Scorcher? Time to call the winter warmer line

EXCUSE the low standard of photography. Unfortunately the blistering sunshine caused by the longest heatwave since 1976 meant there was a lot of reflective glare in the windows of Dudley Council's offices when I took this picture.

Window poster

Anyway, if you can't see it clearly, it is a poster warning about the dangers of living in a cold home. Apparently it's bad for your health, with children particularly at risk of bronchitis, asthma and mental health problems. It's so bad that the council has set up a winter warmth hotline. If you are shivering in your freezing home this week, don't hesitate to dial 01384 817086. That's local government for you. On the ball as ever.

❒❒❒

JOHN Sparry, the popular Black Country historian, broadcaster and raconteur, has written a book about some of the interesting characters from his old school, King Edward VI Grammar, in Stourbridge.

He certainly has plenty of material. While the book focuses largely on literary figures, the father of the modern dictionary, Samuel Johnson, writers Bob Adey and David Gray, as well as the cartoonist Paul Sellers, former pupils include Battle of Britain hero Mike Cooper-Slipper, actor Anthony Bate, and rock star Robert Plant.

Our school days invariably leave a big impression on our lives. Which is why I was saddened to learn that my old school, High Arcal in Dudley, is to change its name to Beacon Hill Academy.

Now while my old school hardly compares with King Ed – founded in 1961 rather than 1552, and its notable alumni limited to a couple of politicians and a diplomat – the High Arcal name has served it perfectly well for 57 years, so why change it now?

Even more depressingly, the old Dudley Grammar School, which traces its history back to 1452, is changing its name for the second time in less than 30 years. Renamed Castle High School in 1989, it will now be St James's Academy.

The former Willenhall Comprehensive a few years ago changed its name to the funkier E-Act Academy. Last year it received a less-than-glowing Ofsted report, in no small part down to the fact that its pupils threw food at the inspectors. Good to know rebranding did the trick.

Water, water everywhere...but for how long?

Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer – old pals act with a different angle

Nye Bevan – as Britain marks 70 years of his NHS, we stand on the threshold of Brexit

John Cleese during his Monty Python heyday, but would he get the gig on today's BBC?

Sting in the tale of a British heatwave

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE worms may be shrivelling and the frogs dehydrating but one species is having a vintage year. I give you the horse fly, that drab little lover of human flesh. A couple of days ago one drove its pointy thing deep into my knee. From past experience this will create a scab, to be prodded and picked for months to come and providing harmless entertainment as the nights draw in. A horse-fly bite, the gift that keeps on giving.

I CANNOT be the only one genuinely surprised that there is not a nationwide hosepipe ban. It's like the savannah out there.

SAD to see so many sufferers attending the National Amnesia Day march in London. There were about 100,000 of them, all calling for a "People's Vote," having entirely forgotten we had it two years ago. Poor devils.

IT'S always good to see old friends having a laugh, as Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse do in Gone Fishing (BBC2). And yet for outsiders the old mystery of coarse fishing is as perplexing as ever. You spend hours catching the fish and taking it out of the water. Then you put it back in again. Hmm.

THERE is life beyond London and I bet many of us on the blasted heath we call the provinces are puzzled at the time, money and energy spent on the future of Heathrow. How many Brits actually use the place? Since the 1970s I have flown all over the world on dozens of occasions for business, holidays and with the military but I doubt if I've used Heathrow more than two or three times. The UK has lots of other places where airliners can take off and land perfectly well, so why this obsession with cramming so many eggs into one basket?

WHITEHALL has decided not to build five new female prisons but to erect much cheaper "residential centres" instead. This reflects a view deeply held in the criminal-justice system, that men are evil but women just have syndromes. Ironically, the announcement of the new facilities came the day after Sabrina Kouiser and her boyfriend were jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the murder, after 12 days of "pitiless" torture, of their au pair. They burned the body in their garden. Pure evil may be rarer among females than males but it undeniably exists and should be locked away for years, not in some cosy semi-hotel but behind the iron bars of a good, old-fashioned jail.

BY pure chance, the struggle to get out of the clutches of the European Union coincides with events to mark the 70th anniversary of Britain embracing the National Health Service. The NHS was a step into the unknown. It divided the nation. It was opposed by many "experts" who backed down only when Nye Bevan famously "stuffed their mouths with gold." The result, in global terms, is a middling sort of health service which is not terribly expensive and is good in some parts, but poor in others. We are supposed to be very proud of it, yet we all have our horror stories about it. But on balance we're glad we took the step into the NHS. And I dare say Brexit will be much the same. Not perfect but better than what we had before.

POSTERS for a pub beer and gin festival remind me how popular gin has become recently. On holiday, I couldn't help noticing that the brilliant little village store in Corfe Castle boasts of having 100 brands of gin. This may answer an old question: what do folk in sleepy holiday villages do during the long, dark winters?

IS he having a laugh? Head of BBC Comedy Shane Allen says the Monty Python team would not make it on the Beeb today because they are 'six Oxbridge white blokes'. But I can't recall a time when humour has been so dominated by upmarket white performers. Stand-up comedy, once the preserve of working-class comics, is now the happy hunting ground of privately-educated stars. A study of 42 episodes of Have I Got News For You (BBC) revealed that all but one of the guests had been to private schools. Maybe things are changing but I bet if John Cleese, Eric Idle, Michael Palin and the rest of the Pythons graduated from uni tomorrow, they'd be snapped up by today's comedy producers because, whatever we may think about privilege, posh is still popular.

TALKING POINT

Upwardly mobile pupil gets top marks

THE name Andreea-Denisa Ciubotaru is hardly one that rolls off the tongue. However, the teenager should be commended.

Regular Talking Point readers may recall a colleague's view on mobile phone use around the dining table, making the point that social time was disrupted by people checking for messages, sending texts or using Facebook, for example, when conversation should be flowing between friends or family.

So it is heartening to hear 16-year-old Andreea-Denisa willingly go without her mobile phone during class time. The schoolgirl, from Barking, asked her headteacher to put her iPhone in the school safe so she could study for exams without being distracted by selfies. The device spent a month locked away and the move looked to have paid off with her GCSE grades predicted to rise from a C to an A. She was quoted as saying: "Everyone knows how addictive phones can be. I've told all my friends to get rid of theirs."

It comes as the head of schools' regulatory body Ofsted backed headteachers who ban phones in class, citing their use as being responsible for unruly behaviour.

Amanda Spielman says the use of smartphones in the classroom is 'dubious' at best and is not convinced of the educational benefits of Snapchat and the like. Culture secretary Matt Hancock has backed the stance, admitting he admires school heads who prevent pupils from using phones all day.

There's no doubt that phones can have an educational appeal and can be a valuable revision tool. But out of school time and away from the desk, please.

Can any child really say they use mobiles sensibly while at school? I would argue that a primary school child's need for a phone is minimal anyway. Certainly, older children, who make their own way to and from school, or who may need to stay behind, would require them to keep in touch with parents.

But I do wonder what these children with their fancy gadgets do at break times. Probably texting or keeping up to date with social media instead of properly interacting with their friends like we did.

It's no coincidence that even Silicon Valley executives send their children to technology-free schools, while Bill Gates and Steve Jobs limited screen time for their own children knowing how addictive they could be. Schools in this country should take heed and keep phones out of the classroom.

MARK SHIPP

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Look again at lessons of history

IF Roger Watts thinks Brexiters have closed eyes and ears (Letters 20th June) I would suggest that he has a closed mind. In every one of his many letters we are subjected to his opinions yet he refuses to accept any converse arguments. Yes, many others suffered in WWII, but this was the result of the actions of a megalomaniac and his followers who wished to dominate Europe.

Dunkirk was only setback not a loss, and the 'Battle of Britain' which followed was far from a defeat when we stood alone for over two years before the Americans joined us. Yes, we had an empire and many of its members fought valiantly with us during the conflict. However this was formed many years before the conflict.

If you look more thoroughly into history you will find that France, Holland, Spain and Germany also had similar foreign possessions.Roger it really is time that you stopped your diatribe of 'red herrings' and accepted that your opponents are not a brunch of cretins!

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
Great Barr

Cut down on lorries

THINGS seem to have got quieter in regard to potholes.

Could the problem be with the way roads are made nowadays? When I was young and indeed when I first started driving, I don't remember any potholes at all. The roads were then tarred and gravelled but I'm not sure about the substrate then.

Also, the vehicles using the roads today do not help the situation. In those days of rigids the most number of axles in general was four. Compare that to the artics now using the roads with up to nine axles and scrubbing the road surfaces.

Is there a simple solution? I think not as we consumers are feeding the need for these sort of trucks. Perhaps an answer would be to get more goods moved by rail, but where are the rail lines?

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

NHS is one of the best things ever

ON July, 5, 1948 the UK made one of the best things happen in this country ever. We introduced the NHS. Our healthcare became communal and financial worries were removed from the consulting room.

The NHS has become a symbol of what we value and an essential part of our national identity.

Today low nurses' pay, pay freezes, axed nurses' bursaries, short staffing, and disastrous private/public finance initiatives undermine and threaten the staff and NHS itself. Our NHS is embattled. Will it still be here in the next 70 years?

Nurses are vital to the future. Their skills, tenderness, kindness and empathy are legend. The NHS is the best of us, as a vision, a practice and a people.

If we are to move forward and not backward in this country investing in the NHS is a priority. Let's not give a broken and decaying system to our children and grandchildren.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Astounded by the negative Remoaners

I'M astounded by the negativity of the Remoaners with regards to our leaving the EU. I see this as a fantastic opportunity to buy most of our food that we buy from the EU at a lower price outside the EU, as the EU impose large tariffs on goods not purchased from within the common market so as to keep the EU producers competitive.

Therefore, I see the cost of food imports falling, also allowing our own producers to produce more of home-grown produce with a massive trade deficit with the EU, one would have thought that they would have been on bended knees begging us for a good trade deal.

In the referendum, the leave side won by a clear four per cent.

I'm also fed up with the constant interference from gravy train European bureaucrats and the constant strain on social services from unlimited immigration, there is no other choice but to leave the EU.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

A privilege to see spectacle

WE were privileged to be in the audience on June 15 at The Dormston Mill Theatre, to watch Anthem Youth and Anthem Voices choirs perform their Summer Spectacular Show.

What a great show it was, musical director/choreographer Elise Evans put together a show that entertained us from start to finish. The well deserved standing ovation at the end showed how much everyone had enjoyed it, and how much hard work had obviously gone into it.

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Judo's Jacks jumps at chance to surprise club

HE won Britain's first medal at a world judo championship in 1967.

And now former Olympic athlete Brian Jacks, aged71, has taken to the road, and the mat once again to share his knowledge with budding judoka's.

Thelegend visited the Mei-Do Kan Judo Club in Walsall to give demonstrations and critique members' performances.

It comes as part of the sporting star's 2018 tour marking the release of his new autobiography – Brian Jacks: The Mindset of a Champion.

John Law, aged 47, senior coach at Mei-Do Kan Judo Club in Walsall, said: "Brian is my childhood hero.

Surprise

"He was doing a tour of the UK promoting his new book and I just contacted him and asked him whether he would mind coming to do a session at the club. That is how it happened. There were around 30 people on the mat.

"I arranged it as a surprise and some of them were gobsmacked, especially the older Dan grades and the more mature members of the club.

"Brian was a childhood hero to most people my age. I have had some really good comments off some of the members, they really liked how he came around and helped them.

"He showed the members a couple of different techniques including three variations of a stranglehold from a standing position and he showed a couple of throws."

The club, which originally started out in the1980s, reopened in 2013 after a short closure.

Jacks took bronze at the world championships 51 years ago and then another bronze at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Brian spent around an hour-and-a-half with members, giving demonstrations and talking through various Judo techniques. As well as his exploits in the sport, Brian was a favourite in the Superstars TV challenge show, which saw sportsmen from all areas of sport competing in different disciplines.

He was most famous for his amazing efforts in the gymnasium, where he repeatedly set records in the "gym tests", including 100 parallel bar dips in 60 seconds in the 1981 Challenge of the Champions, and 118 squat thrusts in the 1980 World Final.

Brian holding a training session

Brian seen on TV's Superstars

Brian, far left, with members of Mei-Do Kan Judo Club in Walsall

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Firms vie for aquatic centre opportunity

BUSINESSES across the West Midlands will have an opportunity to find out how they can become involved in delivering a £60 million aquatics centre for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The centre will be built in Smethwick and will host swimming and diving events at the competition, with work expected to start next year.

Sandwell Council chiefs are now keen to meet with businesses who could help with the construction of the facility, which will be opened as a leisure centre after the competition.

Steve Massey, from Sandwell Council, said: "The £60m development of a modern aquatic Centre and leisure facility is fantastic news for Black Country businesses, as it gives them a great opportunity to secure some of this exciting new work.

"The eyes of the entire construction industry will be on the region when it comes to delivering the project, and it would be great to see local businesses benefit from this increased exposure.

"Working closely with the Black Country Growth Hub, we have designed a series of summer events. We're looking forward to meeting some of the businesses as we start the countdown for the project."

Village mining tribute riddle solved by sculptor

THE puzzle over an unassembled monument for miners has been solved after the sculptor came forward.

Community leaders in Essington were scratching their heads when given the bricks, but no plan, for the monument.

But following an appeal in the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, its maker, sculptor Michael Thomas, has come forward and put it together.

He cast the bricks at Ibstock's Lodge Lane factory 14 years ago for the Black Country Living Museum.

Essington Parish Council has since picked up the monument after the museum said it no longer wanted it.

The only person who knew how to put it together was Mr Thomas and he recently visited councillors.

Mr Thomas, who grew up in Wolverhampton and now lives in Stoke, said: "It was great to see the bricks again after so many years and then to help put it together again. I often wondered where it was so I was lucky I saw the article in the newspaper."

Councillor Ken Pace was there to help. He said: "It was fortunate he heard about this, because without him it would have proved a very hard job."

The council is to next submit a planning application for the monument in the village. It is hoped it will go up near St John's Church.

Essington has a strong link to mining with the village dominated with underground coal mines.

The bricks for the mining monument

The finished design, put together

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Pensioners in fur a treat with alpacas' visit

FRIENDLY alpacas dropped in to meet elderly residents at a retirement complex.

The furry friends took a tour of Cherry Tree Court retirement living community in Essington, after visiting from Albrighton.

Alpacas Alfie and Roo are well-known for their soft fur and gentle nature – and they charmed residents as they took a look around the communal lounge and garden.

Ruth Maburiro, housing and wellbeing manager at Cherry Tree Court, said: "It was a fabulous afternoon.

"I don't think any of us had come face to face with an alpaca before and we were all excited to meet them.

"The residents were surprised by how friendly they were." Cherry Tree Court is one of 34 retirement living communities in Staffordshire and Shropshire managed by Care Plus, which is part of Housing Plus Group.

Care and support director Les Clarke said that Alfie and Roo had an important role to play in helping residents keep active and take part in social activities.

He said: "One of the biggest issues facing older people is loneliness and a lot of what we do is about providing access to a range of activities, so that there is something to interest everyone.

"This was a lot of fun and I was really pleased to see so many people taking the opportunity to meet the alpacas."

Alpaca Roo with Marjorie Galloway and Wenda Borley

Action urged on former pub 'blighting trade'

CALLS for action to be taken at a derelict pub site which is 'blighting' other trades have been made.

Councillors Eric Drinkwater and Sue Woodward want to see drastic improvements made at the former Royal Oak pub at Sankey's Corner in Chase Terrace.

They claim the empty and derelict premises are having a negative impact on other businesses and attempts to improve the shopping area.

County councillor Woodward, who represents the Burntwood North ward on Staffordshire County Council and is the leader of the opposition Labour group, said: "It's a real blight on the centre of the town.

A couple of years ago, we'd set up a community initiative to make the place look a bit more attractive with murals by local schoolchildren.

"Just as we were about to start, a planning application was submitted so we had to pull the plug on it.

Councillors Eric Drinkwater and Sue Woodward

"Yet the application went nowhere and, month by month, the premises look worse and worse. We've had lots of warm words from Lichfield District Council about the need to improve the shopping areas in Burntwood particularly this one.

"At last, we are seeing a new retail area being built through private developers but this doesn't let them off the hook. We need to see the council putting money into this town as well as the city."

The pub, which was run by Coors, is understood to have been shut for up to 10 years, according to Councillor Woodward.

Councillor Drinkwater said the pub had been a problem in the town for a number of years now – and called for action to be taken. He added: "This site has been an eyesore for many years. As long as the landlords keep getting the rent from the brewery and from all their other tenants, they just ignore all attempts to get something moving.

"We've pressed Lichfield District Council time and again to act but nothing has happened." The property lease was passed to Molson Coors when the previous pub tenant closed its doors.

A spokesperson said: "We are working closely with our property agents to identify a suitable business that supports the local community in Burntwood, and we will continue to maintain the premises to ensure the site is a sound investment for potential tenants."

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More spaces call after complaints on parking

Pupil's days to remember

Charlotte Bleakley, with Erasmus Darwin Academy head Mark Mayden

A DEDICATED secondary school pupil has scored top marks with her teachers after receiving a perfect attendance record.

Brownhills teenager Charlotte Bleakley, aged 16, was congratulated by staff at Erasmus Darwin Academy, in Burntwood, for her achievement.

She has completed 11 years – or 2,280 consecutive days – at schools without taking a single day's absence for either holiday or sickness – including her five years at Erasmus Darwin and six years at Watling Street School before.

Charlotte's father Keith said he and wife Lesley are very proud of their daughter's commitment – after she decided in year two that after achieving no absences she wanted to carry it through until she left school.

Mr Bleakley said: "She has done every day at school since was in nursery. The school worked out she had done 2,280 consecutive days for her 11 core years of school. She would never allow us to take her out of school a couple of days early for summer holidays. She's just been completely focused on her studies.

"She had her last GCSE exam last week so now she has a few weeks of relaxing ahead of her. We are very proud of her."

AN EXTRA 160 spaces could be introduced near a leisure centre following complaints about 'dangerous' parking.

Residents and businesses have raised concerns with Walsall Council about parking outside marked bays and in residential streets at the £12 million Oak Park Active Living Centre in Walsall Wood.

The facility opened in 2016.

The site of the former Oak Park Leisure Centre across the road, demolished last year after a suspected arson attack, has been put forward as the best site for the additional spaces. A planning application for the Lichfield Road site has now been submitted to the council.

Visitor numbers at the centre is likely to exceed two million in 2017/18, according to the application, which also revealed that seven-a-side 3G pitches opening in April last year, can draw upwards of 114 additional customers to the site.

Pressure

There is already a car park for 124 cars, including three disabled spaces, and a 96-space car park accessed from Coppice Road.

A planning statement to the council reads: "From the outset the car parking provision at the new Oak Park centre has proven inadequate. The space in the centre is used very intensively, with service demand having significant peaks and troughs, creating further pressure on parking facilities.

"Pressure on car parking has led to significant problems, customers parking unsafely – outside marked bays, on access routes, obstructing emergency exits.

"The centre receives daily complaints about the car park."

Ward Councillor Keith Sears said: "There are not enough spaces and we do not want people to park dangerously so we are happy to put that right. I do welcome the news for extra spaces. There were meant to be football pitches on the site but we have had to sacrifice it and it is worth it. People come from all over to use these state-of-art facilities. They are not just from Walsall, they come from Cannock and Great Barr too."

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Steve proves he's a true warrior to win medals

A WOUNDED veteran from Sutton Coldfield has proudly served his country again in a major sporting event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women.

In the process he brought home an impressive haul of gold and bronze medals.

Team UK ended up with 52 medals from the Warrior Games – the biggest tally of medals for a UK team to date.

Thirty-three-year-old Steve Rice was one of 40 veterans and service personnel who was selected by military charity Help for Heroes to represent the UK at the games which took place last month in Colorado.

The 2018 Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games saw approximately 265 service members and veterans representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and US Special Operations Command (SOCOM), the United Kingdom Armed Forces, Canadian Forces and the Australian Defence Force.

The UK Team, which is supported and delivered by Help for Heroes, took part in nine adaptive sports: athletics, archery, cycling, indoor rowing, sitting volleyball, shooting, swimming, powerlifting and wheelchair basketball.

Army veteran Steve, who served in the Mercian Regiment, was injured in 2010 whilst on tour in Afghanistan. His comrade stepped on an IED, losing both his legs above the knee.

Steve was thrown into the air and tore multiple ligaments in his right knee upon landing. Due to anxiety and guilt over the incident, Steve concealed his injury and the psychological injuries he was suffering from. After three years Steve was forced to have multiple surgeries due to extensive cartilage and ligament damage. He was eventually medically discharged in 2014 but it wasn't until 2015 that Steve sought help to address his nightmares, sleeplessness and flashbacks.

Steve on target for gold in the shooting competition at the Warrior Games

Steve flies the flag following his success

Steve said: "I now suffer from chronic osteoarthritis and have been receiving support for my post traumatic stress. I struggle getting around and completing basic tasks without near-constant pain. Limited function means that I have to use a walking stick for large periods of the day! Anxiety and self-confidence are big issues for me on a day to day basis too."

He continued: "Being selected for the Warrior Games meant the world to me. It tells me that my capabilities as a sportsman haven't disappeared but have instead been realigned. I want to use this as a springboard to progress even further – the opportunity to apply for the UK Sport Talent ID programme, applying for the next Warrior Games or Invictus Games, and hopefully showing others the positive benefits of sport in mental and physical recovery."

Steve brought home a bronze medal in 50M breaststroke 5.5 (Lower) classification, bronze in mixed relay (18 point) swimming, bronze in the 100M Freestyle 5.5 (Lower) classification, bronze in 50M Backstroke 5.5 (lower) classification and gold in the rifle shooting prone SH1 classification.

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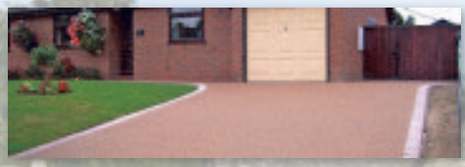

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Fare enough for 40th with museum day

ALDRIDGE Transport Museum will be celebrating its 40th anniversary with a special open day on Sunday.

The family-friendly attraction will be hosting the event with a wide range of exhibits, rides, and stalls.

The museum displays vehicles ranging from the 1940s to the 1990s, many of which will be available for viewing – and even for rides – on the day.

A free bus service from Walsall will also be available to help people attend.

Martin Fisher, chairman of the Trust at the museum, said: "The event will have a bit of a nostalgic touch as people get to ride on buses they remember from school.

"We hope it will be really good day – especially if the weather holds."

The museum was set up in 1978 as the West Midlands Vintage Vehicle Society, and is celebrating 40 years of displaying vehicles this year.

It is run entirely by volunteers and displays a range of vehicles such as buses, trucks, and cars.

Coz we luv them, Slade convention

FANS of Black Country rock and pop legends Slade will be flocking to a convention in the group's home city next year. The fans convention is being held in The Slade Rooms in Broad Street on October 19 from 1pm.

The event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the band adopting the name Slade. The four-piece was known as 'N Betweens and Ambrose Slade before achieving chart glory as Slade. Former drummer Don Powell was in the city earlier this year as part of the city's literary festival.

His story was told in the remarkable memoir, Look What I Dun, and the former Slade man who is now settled in Denmark told his story at Wolverhampton Literary Festival in January at the city's Art Gallery.

Meanwhile guitarist Dave Hill launched his book So Here It Is: How the Boy From Wolverhampton Rocked the World at The Robin 2 in Bilston last year when he joined crowds of fans to celebrate the newly-penned title.

Firms raise a glass after beer awards

A WALSALL brewery was among the success stories at the Society of Independent Brewers' (SIBA) Midlands Beer Awards.

Navigation Brewery from Nottingham won overall gold in cask for in Saviour ale and Thornbridge Brewery in Bakewell was overall bottle and can winner for Melba. The awards were judged at Nottingham Rugby Club as part of the festival.

Fownes Brewing Company from Upper Gornal won silver in cask dark beers (up to 4.4 per cent) for 4.4 per center Korvak's Saga: Chapter II – Burden and bronze in cask strong beers for Hand of Doom, which is 8.2 per cent.

Backyard Brewhouse in Brownhills took silver for Blonde in the bottled and canned bitter category and bronze for its 4.5 per cent Gold in cask premium pale ales. Slater's Ales from Stafford won bronze in bottled and canned session India pale ales for four per cent strength Top Totty.

Mental health first aid put on trust's agenda

ALL senior managers at a Black Country leisure trust are now qualified as mental health first aiders following a bespoke two-day training course.

Specialist provider Inter Wellbeing Ltd delivered the course at Sandwell Leisure Trust's Hadley Stadium facility in Smethwick.

Now 20 SLT staff will be able to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue.

SLT Business & Commercial Manager, Mark Wildman, says: "Mental health awareness and training is an increasingly important area for employers so we think taking a proactive and positive approach is vital.

"It further demonstrates the trust's ongoing commitment to advance the training, development and welfare of staff under its Investor in People Standard. Mental health first aid is just as important as physical first aid and should be considered by all organisations really, because it can strike at any time and can affect people from all walks of life.

"This fascinating course has both empowered and educated our managers to be able to support staff who may need help, as it not only improves understanding, but assists with recognising those who maybe suffering and have a mental illness, as well as early intervention tactics."

The course also helps employees develop the skills and confidence to approach and support someone (while keeping oneself safe) and guide a person towards the right support for recovery or successful management of symptoms. This could include self-help books or websites, accessing therapy services through their GP or place of work, online self-referral, support groups and more.

Back, from left, Ash Rai (SLT CEO), Chris Malkin, Rachel Evans-Robinson, Lisa Richards; and front Abigail Major and Ben Darby.

Rachel Evans-Robinson, Director of Inter Wellbeing Ltd, adds: "Sandwell Leisure Trust is to be commended for leading the way in mental health awareness. We are proud of our partnership with SLT and have really enjoyed training such a pro-active, forward thinking organisation, which actively supports positive wellbeing and is also tackling the issue of stigma in the workplace.

"By committing to train all senior managers in the organisation, SLT ensure staff wellbeing is at the forefront of its business. Mental Health First Aid teaches people to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis, and potentially stopping that crisis from happening."

Mental ill health can have a huge impact on both human and financial potential. The Centre for Mental Health estimates that mental illness costs UK employers an estimated £34.9 bn each year, which is the equivalent of £1,300 for every employee in the UK workforce. Broken down, that's £10.6 bn in sickness absence, £21.2 bn in reduced productivity, and £3.1 bn in replacing staff who leave their jobs for mental health-related reasons.

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Harj spearheads video campaign to find school governors from ethnic minorities

School governor Harj Kalirai during filming

A SCHOOL governor from Willenhall is spearheading a national campaign to encourage more people from ethnic minorities and younger age groups to volunteer as school governors.

The campaign has been put together by Inspiring Governance and the National Governance Association (NGA).

Harj Kalirai, who is a governor at Short Heath Federation, stepped forward to support the Everyone on Board campaign after learning that across England, just four per cent of school governors come from ethnic minorities, compared to around a third of pupils.

Also only 10 per cent of governors are aged under 40, and one per cent under 30, according to the annual school governance survey 2017. There are an estimated quarter of a million school governors and trustees volunteering in state-funded schools in England, with one in 10 school governing positions vacant.

For the campaign, Harj appeared alongside five other governors in a short film to share her personal insight and experience on the value of having diverse people overseeing schools.

Harj said: "I decided to get involved in this campaign because as a mother of two young girls, I want to show them that nothing is out of bounds to them. I know they may face challenges in their lives because they are from a minority and because they are female. There is a lot of social immobility within education and I believe everyone should receive the same high quality of education, regardless of their background."

The campaign was launched at the NGA's summer conference on June 9.

Councillor hits out at plastic pollution

A LOCAL councillor has slammed canal bosses for not cleaning up plastic from an 'eyesore' canal.

Darlaston's Councillor Doug James contacted the Canal and River Trust about the plastic pollution at Town Wharf, Walsall.

He said: "For me it is the fact that it is a nice summer day and it is great to have everyone out and about but Canal and River Trust need to take more responsibility for cleaning it.

"We have an excellent art gallery and area but right in the middle of it all is this eyesore canal because it is littered with plastic pollution.

"Some people just need a better attitude and not treat the canal as a rubbish dock."

The River & Canal Trust has since announced they will be holding a clean up on paddle boards on August 5. Tickets can be bought from www.plasticpatrol.co.uk

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Thugs chase boy for his new birthday bike

A COWARDLY gang of thugs chase two young cyclists before stealing their bikes in footage captured by security cameras.

The yobs can be seen prowling through the streets near Red House Park in Great Barr just as two young boys cycle past them.

The group immediately start chasing them round the corner and out of sight of the cameras.

The victims are then seen running back the way they came along without their bikes – the yobs close on their heels.

It is believed that one of the victims had celebrated his 12th birthday recently and had received the black mountain bike as his present.

Shaken

He was said to be left devastated after losing his bike, so soon after he received the present.

The two boys – both aged 12 – were said to be left shaken by the incident.

CCTV footage from the scene captured the two boys making their way along Hill Lane on their bikes, past a gang of six teenagers – some of them hooded.

West Midlands Police confirmed they were investigating the incident that happened on Saturday, June 24

A spokesman for the force said: "It is believed around six teenagers, approached the boy at 7pm on Saturday before pushing him and leaving without his bike."

Any witnesses or anyone with information about the incident is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101, quoting log 659 of June 24.

A photo of the birthday present bike

The boys fleeing on the CCTV footage

The CCTV footage shows the terrifying incident unfold with the yobs nearby

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On courses for superb cuisine at Belfry events

GASTRONOMES are invited to try out mouth-watering offerings at one of the region's leading venues, The Belfry Hotel and Resort.

The renowned Ryder Grill restaurant's tasting evenings get under way, held on the first Thursday of every month.

Awarded England's Leading Resort at The World Travel Awards for three consecutive years, The Belfry has developed a name for excellence in the hospitality industry, attracting visitors from all over the world.

Head Chef, Ryan Swift offers a fresh culinary flair to the popular evenings, which are available from £45 a head, with a sumptuous six-course menu featuring a selection of favourites, all packed with the finest seasonal produce.

Creativity

Ryan said: "The tasting evenings provide a real opportunity to quite literally bring my creativity to the table and create some truly unique dishes.

"The response has been tremendous so far and we are looking forward to getting more creative and bring the best possible dishes to the upcoming events."

The tasting menus are carefully crafted to utilise the best of seasonal ingredients, with the upcoming July menu celebrating ricotta, salmon, skate, lamb, cherry and lemon followed by heritage potatoes, salmon, cauliflower, duck, meringue and peach in August.

Limited spaces are available at each tasting evening. For more information or to book a table, please call 01675 238 600, email enquiries@thebelfry.com or visit www.thebelfry.com.

Lightly cooked salmon, with beetroot in horseradish buttermilk

A chance to try delicious ricotta with wild garlic and watercress

The Ryder Grill restaurant, offering unique tasting evenings at the Belfry

Grand line-up of entertainment

A NEW season of shows has been announced for Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre – complete with productions starring celebs such as Tony Christie, Lemar and Brendan Cole.

Top shows on the bill, meanwhile, will include Dirty Dancing, Cats, Madagascar The Musical, and Rock Of Ages. Following his role in Ladies Day at the city centre theatre this July, Amarillo singer Tony Christie will return to the Grand for a full, live concert on November 3.

Tickets for the new season's shows go on sale at 11am on June 29 for online and telephone bookings.

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INSIDE

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Sinatra and all that jazz for star Curtis

Back in the day, Curtis Stigers was the man with the flowing locks and the pin-up looks. The singer enjoyed a string of chart successes in the early 1990s, including the international smash hits I Wonder Why and You're All That Matters To Me.

And yet becoming part of the international jet set was something that didn't sit well. He was more interested in playing the music close to his heart – jazz and swing – than he was making a dent in the charts.

And so he began an alternative career. Curtis exited the arenas and stadiums into which he'd briefly been placed and started doing the rounds at jazz clubs and bars. That was 17 years ago and his jazzy versions of pop songs have made him ever-popular in the USA and Europe. These days, his records don't make the chart – and that's exactly how he likes it.

He's back on the road with a show that pays homage to the greatest of them all – Frank Sinatra – and will headline Birmingham's Town Hall on July 13 with a show called Sinatra At The Sands, in which he'll perform with The Ronnie Scott's Big Band.

Curtis will channel the hip, swinging chemistry of Frank Sinatra and the Count Basie Orchestra in celebration of the classic album Sinatra at the Sands. It follows the release last year of his latest album, One More For The Road, with the Danish Radio Big Band.

Not that Stigers will party like Ol' Blue Eyes after the show. "I'm old enough to know that I shouldn't have a drink of whisky to end the night. That's always been a downfall for me. The next day is a very bad day if I do that. If I'm going to have something strong, I'm going to start with it. Once I'm done with it, I'm a big fan of a nice glass of red wine, so I'd switch to that. It'd have to be red wine only because I'm too smart to hurt myself as badly as I did when I was young.

And we wonder why – Curtis Stigers is taking on Sinatra's hits

OUTSPOKEN

"Listen to me, children! Do not mix drinks at the end of the night. It seems like a great idea when they bring out a bottle of nice Scotch whisky but once they do that, you're in trouble."

Curtis is one of rock'n'roll's more cultured performers. A delightful raconteur and outspoken politico, his Twitter feed is one of the more entertaining that there is.

He frequently rails against the 'poison' of USA President Donald Trump and also tackles such commentators as Katie Hopkins in no-punches-pulled discourse.

"He's just a nightmare for everyone. I think in the long-run, even the people who support him will rue the day that they decided to vote for him. He doesn't care about anybody except himself. He's not about the country. He's not about the people he supposedly represents. He's about making money and getting attention. I don't think he's mentally stable either. We could probably talk about him for hours!"

Curtis's new Sinatra project is close to his heart. He is a huge fan of Sinatra at the Sands, which inspired his album with the Danish Radio Big Band.

"I flew over to rehearse with them for a day, drank a couple of Danish beers and I sang a bunch of great material that I have known since I was a kid but hadn't sung as it never occurred to me to sing Sinatra. I've always kind of done my own thing. I had a ball, though. It was a riot.

"A few weeks later someone sent me an email with a link to the recordings for Danish radio, as it had gone out as a broadcast.

"And to be honest, I didn't even listen to it. It took me a couple of weeks to rediscover it. I threw it on when doing some work and I was really surprised by how fresh it sounded and how cool it sounded to hear me singing these songs and arrangements that Sinatra made so famous."

Curtis has led a remarkable life – coming face-to-face with rock excess and meeting his heroes along the way.

"It was wonderful at the time – but you can't spend your life like that. It's very easy to lose track of reality. They were great times and I got to perform in front of huge numbers of people and meet a lot of my heroes like Eric Clapton, Elton John and Prince. But I wouldn't want to be stuck in the back of a tour bus now – these days I like to keep it low key, it's better to connect to people in each of the place I travel to.

> *It's very easy to lose track of reality. They were great times . . .*

"Different things are important to me now I guess. I've seen plenty of people in my industry lose sight of what's real and what's not. I'd like to think that I have never been like that, I've always tried to keep a grip on what's important."

Andy Richardson

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Young Vic's The Jumper Factory

Emphasis on youth at Rep's theatre festival

More than 200 young people from across Europe will unite in Birmingham this summer for a celebration of youth theatre.

Over five days from July 30 to August 3, a total of 14 youth theatre companies will perform as part of For / With / By: Festival of European Youth Theatre at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

The aim of the festival is to raise awareness of youth theatre work, both in the UK and Europe, and also to celebrate incredible theatre made by young people aged 14 to 25.

The programme includes a broad range of plays from the classic, Antigone, to the topical Windrush-inspired, The Place For Me, with companies from across the UK and also Ireland, Poland and Spain.

Steve Ball, associate director for learning and participation at Birmingham Rep, said: "For / With / By is a celebration of the thousands of young people who take part in youth theatre groups every week across the UK and Europe. Here at The Rep we believe theatre and the chance to participate in high-quality drama activities should be open to every young person.

"Performing, learning and participating in theatre can have life-changing experiences and I think that during the festival you'll not only see some incredible theatre making, you'll also see young people having a real drive and passion for something they have chosen to be part of."

For further information about the shows see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk website.

Be moonstruck by the Lunar line-up

THE Lunar Festival near Birmingham offers an intimate alternative to the summer's mega music fests.

The capacity is 5,000 for the Lunar Festival, named after a group of Birmingham-based 18th century industrialists, philosophers and intellectuals, which is being held at a rural site near the Warwickshire village of Tanworth-In-Arden, after taking a year off in 2017.

Committed to staying small whilst thinking big, the 2018 edition of Lunar Festival is held over the weekend of July 27 to 29. The major music acts will be in action from Friday to Sunday, following 'early settlers' day on Thursday.

Top of the bill on Friday is Amadou & Mariam, a Grammy-nomiated duo from Mali, and the line up also includes the Go! Team, folk group The Unthanks with the songs of Molly Drake, a DJ set from Baement Jaxx and funky Welsh band Boy Azooga, plus others.

Goldfrapp, fronted by Alison Goldfrapp, pictured, headline on Saturday, plus electronic outfit Crazy P, Hookworms and 'Madchester' favourites A Guy Called Gerald, and more. Another eclectic line-up on Sunday is topped by new wave veterans The Stranglers, with support from Malian band Songhoy Blues, singer-songwriter Jane Weaver, and DJ Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast.

"Lunar is 100 per cent dedicated to celebrating the wonderful community of music and art lovers that have supported the festival to date, and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new to this year's edition," said the festival's John Fell.

There is a range of prices with camping and without, and special deals for students and NHS workers. For more information see www.lunarfestival.co.uk website.

Fenn-tastic event for Twin Peaks fans

Sherilyn Fenn, Audrey Horne in cult 1990s TV series Twin Peaks and its sequel Twin Peaks: The Return, is the first special guest announced for MCM Birmingham Comic Con at the NEC on November 24 and 25. While Fenn has an array of TV and film credits to her name, from Gilmore Girls to the controversial Boxing Helena, the Detroit-born actor is best known as Audrey in David Lynch and Mark Frost's surreal detective drama Twin Peaks. See www.mcmcomiccon.com/birmingham/2018

Hip-hop and pop at Solihull Summer Fest

This year's Solihull Summer Fest is set to be the best yet with a line-up that includes pop legendss Busted, Sister Sledge, Blue and 10cc – plus latest X-factor winners, Rak-Su. Now in its third year, thousands at Tudor Grange Park over the August Bank Holiday weekend.The Saturday (August 25) line-up includes disco sensations Sister Sledge, 70s favourites 10cc and 'All Rise' boy band Blue. Also on the bill are X Factor hip-hop sensations Rak-Su, singer and Britain's Got Talent judge Alesha Dixon and Roland Gift from the Fine Young Cannibals. Sunday (August 26) includes the only confirmed gig of 2018 for Busted, plus 'America' hitmakers Razorlight, the Lightning Seeds, The Beat featuring Ranking Roger and The Dualers. Plus special guest rappers the Sugar Hill Gang. Visit www.solihullsummerfest.co.uk

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SATURDAY'S TV JULY 7

CHOICE

Jo Whiley

RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2018 (BBC2, 9.30pm)

On the final day at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, Carol Klein will be revealing what to plant this weekend for instant results, Arit Anderson has some Hampton-inspired ideas for outside spaces, and Adam Frost explores how to create privacy in a garden. Plus, Toby Buckland meets the winner of Florist of the Year and Nick Bailey looks in detail at a cut-flower favourite, the lily. Introduced by Joe Swift and Jo Whiley.

BBC1

In the event of live football not being shown, the following schedule is subject to change.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of day six at the All England Club. **2.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Gary Lineker presents coverage of the third quarter-final (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker presents further live coverage of day six.

6.10 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Spain or Russia v Croatia or Denmark (Kick-off 7.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the fourth quarter-final, which takes place at Fisht Stadium in Sochi, as the semi-final line-up is completed. The teams still left in the competition at this stage know they have a very strong chance of lifting the famous trophy, and the pressure will be on both countries to perform well here. If the expected results had occurred in the group stages and during last week's last-16 encounters, this match may well have been a mouthwatering clash between Spain and Argentina, but Jorge Sampaoli's side just scraped through in second place from their group, and met France in the second round a week ago. Fernando Hierro – who travelled to four World Cups as a defender for Spain – took over as manager just days before the start of the tournament following Julen Lopetegui's sacking, and guided his side to a memorable 3-3 draw with Portugal, a 1-0 victory over Iran and a 2-2 draw with Morocco in their group games. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Danny Murphy.

9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R)

9.45 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.05 Film: Avengers: Age of Ultron. (2015) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.10** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.40** The Dengineers. (R) **8.10** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.40** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.10** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **10.30** Athletics: Diamond League Lausanne Highlights. **11.30** Wimbledon 2018.

8.30 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at SW19, where the line-up for the last 16 was set to be decided. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic progressing to the fourth round with respective straight-set victories over Mischa Zverev and Ernests Gulbis, while Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was dumped out of the tournament on Court Two against American Sam Querrey.

9.30 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2018. Carol Klein reveals what to plant for instant results, Arit Anderson has ideas for outside spaces, and Adam Frost explores how to create privacy in a garden. Last in the series.

10.00 Joanna & Jennifer: Absolutely Champers. In Absolutely Fabulous, Patsy and Edina were rarely seen without a glass of champagne in their hands. And it turns out their real-life counterparts, comedy collaborators and great friends Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders, also like nothing more than getting together to share a glass of something chilled and bubbly. Now the pair head across the channel to explore the Champagne region of France and find out how the tipple is made. Along the way, they also quiz each other about their lives, revealing previously unheard stories and anecdotes. (R)

11.00 Absolutely Fabulous. A new boyfriend boasting a selection of lost Beatles recordings makes Eddie think she has hit the big time. (R)

11.30 Film: Behind the Candelabra. (2013)

1.20 Film: Populaire. (2012) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

In the event of live football not being shown, the following schedule is subject to change.

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. **9.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.55** ITV News. **12.00** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's races from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Coverage of the third quarter-final (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Spain or Russia v Croatia or Denmark (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the fourth quarter-final, which takes place at Fisht Stadium in Sochi, as the semi-final line-up is completed. The teams still left in the competition at this stage know they have a very strong chance of lifting the famous trophy, and the pressure will be on both countries to perform well here. If the expected results had occurred in the group stages and during last week's last-16 encounters, this match may well have been a mouthwatering clash between Spain and Argentina, but Jorge Sampaoli's side just scraped through in second place from their group, and met France in the second round a week ago. Fernando Hierro – who travelled to four World Cups as a defender for Spain – took over as manager just days before the start of the tournament following Julen Lopetegui's sacking, and guided his side to a memorable 3-3 draw with Portugal, a 1-0 victory over Iran and a 2-2 draw with Morocco in their group games.

9.15 Bear's Mission with Rob Brydon. Adventurer Bear Grylls teaches the comedian some alternative survival skills. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: The Bourne Identity. (2002) Thriller, starring Matt Damon.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Swansea Half Marathon. **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The 10th round of the season continues. **12.25** F1 Meets Toto Wolff. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Silverstone (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys: India. The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India by canal boat. The trip begins in Kerala, a region of palm-fringed lakes, rivers and British-built canals which has had a thriving spice trade for thousands of years. They explore a boat built by a local ruler and make offerings at a temple, while Pru learns a traditional dance. (R)

8.00 Film: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. (2015) With the original Best Exotic Marigold Hotel a roaring success, owner Sonny decides the time is right to expand his business empire. But to do so, he and the rest of the residents must pull out all the stops to impress a potential investor's inspector – a task that proves to be easier said than done. Comedy drama sequel, with Dev Patel, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and Richard Gere.

10.25 Film: The World's End. (2013) Five childhood friends reunite for a pub crawl in their home town, only to stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

12.30 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a dog-friendly hotel in urgent need of help. (R) **1.20** The Big Narstie Show. The grime MC presents an alternative entertainment show. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. A special flashback episode focusing on James, looking back at moments in his life including his 16th birthday and landing his first role at law firm, Forbes Carney. (R) **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three rival north London sellers try to clinch a sale from buyer Kelly. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **1.45** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **2.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.45** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.45** 5 News Weekend. **5.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.45 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The enforcement agents chase down a builder owing nearly £3,500 to a customer and head to south London to recover almost £10,000 from a debtor who acted as guarantor for a friend. (R)

7.40 Britain's Greatest Magician: Paul Daniels. Documentary revisiting the highlights of Paul Daniels' decades-long career as a TV magician, which saw him bring magic to the masses via grand set-piece performances such as making an elephant vanish, and shocking stunts, including his infamous iron maiden trick. The programme also charts the beginnings of Paul's interest in illusions, learning rudimentary tricks from a book during his childhood in Middlesbrough. Includes interviews with Paul's Magic Circle contemporary Stephen Mulhern, illusionists David Copperfield and Penn and Teller, and the magician's own widow and former on-stage companion Debbie McGee. (R)

9.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. TV illusionists have been sawing ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn & Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium. (R)

11.50 Cricket on 5.

12.45 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Rik Mayall: Lord of Misrule **11.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.00** Smashing Hits! The 80's Pop Map of Britain & Ireland **2.00** Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.05** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **12.35** Catchphrase **1.20 Film:** Twister (1996) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25 Film:** Twister (1996) **3.35 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** CelebAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

4.55 Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

3.15 Pawn Stars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** World Series of Darts Live: Las Vegas. Coverage of day two of the US Darts Masters from the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. **12.00 Film:** Nacho Libre (2006) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Nacho Libre (2006) **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.55 Film: Postman Pat: The Movie (2014) **1.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** Young Sheldon **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Ted (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Rude Tube **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.45** Vice Versa (1988) **4.40** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014) **6.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **9.00** True Lies (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.45** The Anomaly (2014) **1.40** Mercury Rising (1998) **3.55** Close

Star Reader Travel
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Your Chronicle in association with Omega

Chicago is officially back home in London's West End and is about to welcome a new star to the Phoenix Theatre: yes, it's true - Martin Kemp, from pop legends Spandau Ballet and BBC's Eastenders, will join the cast as Billy Flynn from Monday 2nd July for a strictly limited season.

Winner of six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards and a Grammy, the sexiest, sassiest, most sophisticated Broadway musical in history is celebrating 21 years of standing ovations in style.

The dazzling tale of jazz slayer Roxie Hart, her cell-block rival Velma Kelly and the smooth-talking lawyer Billy Flynn has thrilled audiences across the world since 1996.

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ABTA

SUNDAY'S TV JULY 8

CHOICE

Rafael Nadal

Strokes of Genius: Federer v Nadal
(BBC2, 6.20pm)
A look back at the 2008 Wimbledon men's singles final, which saw Rafael Nadal triumph over Roger Federer in an epic five-set encounter that lasted for four hours and 48 minutes. The contest was also halted twice for rain delays, meaning the event stretched for over seven hours before eventually reaching its conclusion not long before nightfall.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Barry Davies: The Man, The Voice, The Legend. (R) **2.00** Just Call Me Martina. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Attenborough and the Giant Elephant. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Sean Fletcher explore the ground of Hampton Court Palace, home to the last remaining working shire horses in London, which provide a natural alternative to modern machinery. Plus, a look at the finished design for the Countryfile Wildlife Garden to appear at the Hampton Court Flower Show, and Anita Rani and Adam Henson meet two more candidates for the Young Presenter contest.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Cardiff Castle, where items brought in to be valued include a simple pottery jug given as a love token, an early Hockney print found in a junk shop, and a draft score for Elgar's Enigma Variations signed by the composer.

9.00 Poldark. Grain prices rise, leaving the poor struggling to support their families. Ross makes a desperate gamble to help them, which draws the attention of the prime minister. However, Falmouth persuades him to compromise his principles to achieve his goals. Demelza continues her plot to bring Drake and Rosina together, but he is far more interested in a future with Morwenna. Caroline continues to repress her grief, and Arthur is driven into a murderous rage when he learns the truth about Rowella's affair.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Celebrities on the NHS Frontline. To mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, four well-known faces get first-hand experience at King's College Hospital, London. (R)

11.30 Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia: Gay and Under Attack. (R)

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.20** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.05** Natural World: Heligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** Rick Stein's German Bite. (R) **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.00** Mountain Lions – Big Cats in High Places: Natural World. (R) **4.00** Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. (R)

6.20 Strokes of Genius: Federer v Nadal. A look back at the 2008 Wimbledon men's singles final, which saw Rafael Nadal triumph over Roger Federer in an epic five-set encounter that lasted for four hours and 48 minutes.

8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. The traveller's second leg of his journey across Russia takes him from south-east Siberia to the far south west and the majestic Caucasus Mountains. Along the way he stops off at the oldest lake on earth, witnesses a commemoration of the Second World War in the city of Irkutsk and visits a cafe where patriotic staff and punters perform a daily rendition of the national anthem. He also finds out how the collapse of communism has seen millions of disenchanted Russians join new sects and religions, with one community worshipping a man claiming to be the reincarnation of Christ. (R)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. The comedian visits Ethiopia, experiencing local traditional medicine and jazz music, as well as learning more about the country's oppressive political regime.

10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate. Violence erupts in Charlottesville and President Trump fails to denounce white supremacists, before further stirring division by blaming the media for the nation's problems.

10.55 Film: The Box. (2009) A couple receive a box that will make them rich at the press of a button – but if they do so, someone will die. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden.

12.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25 Film:** Problem Child. (1990) **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.55** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.55** ITV News; Weather. **2.00** Catchphrase. (R) **2.45** Tenable. (R) **3.45** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.45 Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as one-time Coronation Street actor Jimi Mistry (Khalid Nazir), former Emmerdale star Gemma Atkinson (Carly Hope), Loose Women's Nadia Sawalha and veteran actor James Cosmo pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser, in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds for the charity of their choice. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

8.00 Vera. The detective is drawn into Newcastle's underworld to discover the identity of a murder victim found dead in the river, with no clue as to who he is apart from a distinctive drugs wrapper. She discovers the dead man had ties to some very dangerous people, many of whom may have wanted him dead, while a witness's testimony links the case to a remote farm where a murder took place 13 years previously. The connection brings Kenny's past back to haunt him, as he was responsible for seeing the perpetrator convicted. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Tommy Cooper Forever. (R)

11.20 The Big Fish Off. Former athletics stars Linford Christie and Katharine Merry join team captains Ali Hamidi and Dean Macey. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.30** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the 10th round of the season. **1.40** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 10th round of the season (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.30** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Reaction. **5.35** Bang on Budget.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Great British Germ Hunt. Kate Quilton and a team explore the invisible world of bacteria, as they conduct a series of unique experiments to find out why these germs are crucial for our health. The team head to a music festival to see if a weekend of partying improves the bacterial diversity of a group of volunteers, and two ordinary British homes are put under the microscope to reveal the germs we live with.

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the final of the patisserie competition, with the last three remaining teams of bakers pulling out all the stops to impress judges Benoit Blin and Cherish Finden and be crowned as the first champion of the professional series. The bakers face a marathon nine-hour challenge, during which they must create a lavish banquet display large enough to serve 80 people. Their creation has to combine four different types of dessert and a towering showpiece combining chocolate and sugar work. Last in the series.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. A sick baby tests Offred and Serena Joy. Meanwhile, Janine finally faces Naomi. Dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel about a future American theocracy.

10.10 World's Tiniest Masterpieces. Profile of sculptor Willard Wigan, whose miniscule work can only be glimpsed through a microscope, as he creates a sculpture small enough to fit inside a human cell.

11.05 Film: The Eagle. (2011) Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

1.20 The Last Leg. (R) **2.15** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **3.15** Gillette World Sport. **3.40** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **6.55** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **1.55** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **2.55 Film:** Dirty Dancing. (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. **5.00 Film:** Maid in Manhattan. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Action from the final T20 of the three-match series, which took place at The Brightside Ground in Bristol. Prior to the commencement of this series, England had an excellent record against India in this format of the game when playing on home soil, winning all three of the matches to have taken place.

8.00 Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring face plants and badly behaved fish.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: We're the Millers. (2013) A drug dealer is hired to pick up a shipment of marijuana in Mexico and bring it back over the border. To make himself look less suspicious, he recruits a stripper and two teenagers to pose as a perfect all-American family on holiday, only to end up getting on the wrong side of a drug cartel. Comedy, with Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston and Emma Roberts.

11.10 Film: Hot Tub Time Machine 2. (2015) A group of friends travels into the future to solve a mystery after one of them gets shot by a mysterious stranger. Comedy, starring Rob Corddry and Craig Robinson.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Vienna Summer Night Concert 2018 **8.15** Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid **9.00** Horizon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Hunting the Nazi Gold Train **11.30** The Art of Scandinavia **12.30** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **1.30** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **2.30** Horizon **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.50 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Talent **12.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.20** Take Me Out **2.35 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **4.25 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **6.45 Film:** Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** CelebAbility **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
7.00 Victoria **9.00** Unforgotten **11.05** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.15** Road to Avonlea **4.55** Murder, She Wrote **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage two of the most prestigious race on the calendar. **5.00** Snooker v Darts **5.10** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Pawn Stars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** Rush Hour 2 (2001) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Rush Hour 2 (2001) **9.55 Film:** The Glimmer Man (1996) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00 Film:** The Glimmer Man (1996) **11.50** Minder **2.05** The Motorbike Show **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **6.30 Film:** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.05** Gogglebox Australia **2.55** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.30** The Three Stooges (2012) **4.20** The Train (1964) **7.00** Taxi (2004) **9.00** Faster (2010) **10.55** The Purge (2013) **12.35** Piranha 3DD (2012) **2.10** Phase IV (1973) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Killer Date, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An attractive woman agrees to go on the date arranged online by her sister. The app she is supplied with uses GPS technology and when she starts to receive disturbing messages via the medium, every man in her life becomes a suspect. Thriller, starring Anna Hutchinson. (2016)

TUESDAY
Rocky V, ITV, 10.50pm
The heavyweight champion is forced into retirement due to brain damage inflicted in the ring, and finds his fortune has been lost on the stock market by his accountant. Returning to his working-class roots, he trains an up-and-coming fighter, only to see his protege turn against him. Drama sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and real-life boxer Tommy Morrison. (1990)

WEDNESDAY
Sex, Lies And Deception, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. Samantha and Paul's marriage is put under strain when a car accident involving their daughter Jane sees her admitted to hospital. Drama, starring Jessalyn Gilsig. (2018)

The Last Boy Scout, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Clash of the Titans, Channel 5, 9pm
The son of the Greek god Zeus is raised by humans and grows up to reject his immortal heritage in anger at the gods' cruel treatment of humans. He sets out on a quest to find a means to kill the evil lord of the underworld in revenge for his father's death, facing all manner of strange creatures. Mythological adventure, with Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes and Gemma Arterton. (2010)

FRIDAY
The Last Boy Scout, ITV, 10.45pm
A private eye half-heartedly takes a job as bodyguard to a nightclub dancer. A shocking attack, however, forces him to take his duties more seriously, and before long he uncovers evidence of murder and corruption - all linked to the world of American football. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Chelsea Field and Halle Berry. (1991)

New mystery series hopes to be a novel success

Can an eight-part TV version of Joan Lindsay's classic novel outshine the much-admired film version?

Those who have seen director Peter Weir's haunting movie would probably answer in the negative, but in recent years, the small screen has come to rival its bigger cousin for quality, so we may be onto a winner.

In recent times, the likes of Big Little Lies, The Handmaid's Tale, Top of the Lake and Sky's latest series, Sharp Objects, have gone some way to boost the number of leading roles for women, and Picnic at Hanging Rock certainly lends a hand too – it's dominated by strong females.

When the book was published back in 1967, it was hugely acclaimed and quickly became known as one of the greatest entries in Australian literature, but its origins have puzzled readers ever since.

Some are utterly convinced it's based on a true story, while Lindsay herself did little to persuade people one way or the other. However, her housekeeper later claimed her employer had dreamt the basic idea.

A 2017 article from the Australian magazine The Age stated, "The dream had centred on a summer picnic at a place called Hanging Rock, which Joan knew well from her childhood holidays.

"Joan told Rae (her housekeeper) that the dream had felt so real that when she awoke at 7.30am, she could still feel the hot summer breeze blowing through the gum trees and she could still hear the peals of laughter and conversation of the people she'd imagined, and their gaiety and lightness of spirit."

All this mystery merely adds to the tale's appeal.

The film starred Rachel Roberts, while Vivean Gray – instantly recognisable to Neighbours fans for her subsequent role as battleaxe Mrs Mangel – had a small role, as did Oscar-nominated actress Jacki Weaver.

This time around it's Game of Thrones and The Hunger Games star Natalie Dormer who takes the lead role of widowed headmistress Hester Appleyard, who arrives in Australia as the tale begins.

"I'm excited that the BBC Two is bringing this magical reimagining of an Australian classic to the UK audience," says Dormer. "It's a collaboration of which I'm very proud to be a part."

Sue Deeks, the BBC's head of programme acquisition, adds: "This stylistically bold and atmospheric take on Picnic At Hanging Rock - led by one of Britain's most exciting actors, Natalie Dormer - will be irresistible both to fans of the classic novel and to those coming to this mysterious story for the first time."

Ms Appleyard's reasons for moving to the other side of the world are shrouded in mystery, but in just six years, she manages to turn her self-named college into a leading educational establishment attended by bright girls from well-to-do families.

It's situated in an isolated mansion in the bush, close to the local beauty spot of Hanging Rock.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Picnic at Hanging Rock, Wednesday, BBC2, 9.05pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Olivia Colman finds some surprises in her ancestral history, and her belief that most of those in her family tree emanate from Norfolk turns out to be far from the truth. Olivia is astonished to discover that she needs to travel to India to find out more about her great-great-great grandmother Harriot, who was an orphan in 1811 on a ship bound for England from Calcutta. Harriot's father was an an Englishman, but the identity of her mother, who gave birth to her in a remote Indian village, is a mystery Olivia delights in solving.

TUESDAY
Horizon: How to Build a Time Machine
BBC2, 9pm
Time travel is not forbidden by the laws of nature - but to build a time machine, experts need to understand more about those laws and how to subvert them. Cameras follow scientists, including Professors Ron Mallet and Tamara Davies, who are working on the cutting edge of discovery - men and women who may discover how to build wormholes, manipulate entangled photons or build fully functioning time crystals. In short, enable an engineer of the future to build a machine that allows people to travel back and forward in time.

999: What's Your Emergency?
Channel 4, 9pm
Documentary following the emergency services in Wiltshire, continuing with crimes relating to the rising use of cannabis. PC Joe Tompkinson is cut up at a roundabout and when he stops the car responsible, all he can smell is the drug. PC Adam Burson visits a family whose members have had a brick thrown through their front window - a dealer's retaliation - and officers are called by a mother after she is assaulted by her son, who is suspected to be suffering from cannabis psychosis.

WEDNESDAY
Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
Channel 5, 9pm
This time, the presenter visits Mount Stewart on the shores of Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland, which was home to the Stewart family for more than 250 years. They were given the title of Marquess of Londonderry and it was the Marchioness, Lady Edith, who was largely responsible for transforming the house. Alan learns about Edith's eclectic taste as he looks around her private bedroom suite, and meets her granddaughter, Lady Rose. Elsewhere, Nina travels to the Peroni Archive in Belfast to discover how Lady Edith was active in the Suffragist movement.

Who Do You Think You Are?, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Trump & Britain: Love or Loathing? Tonight
ITV, 7.30pm
Donald Trump is about to make his first official visit to the UK as President, and it's been predicted he'll be greeted by thousands of protestors – there's even been reports that a specially designed orange inflatable will be flown over London to mark the occasion. But will his reception really be as hostile as some sections of the media are predicting? Tonight looks at what we can expect from the US leader's visit, and hears from a varied group of public figures, including Lord Sugar, Nigel Farage, Germaine Greer and Alex Salmond, to find out what they think about the trip. Martin Geissler will also ask what the visit says about the state of the so-called ëspecial relationship' and what it will mean for Britain's future dealings with the controversial President.

FRIDAY
First Night of the Proms
BBC2, 8.30pm
New series. At London's Royal Albert Hall, the new season launches with a feast for the eyes and ears in the world premiere of Five Telegrams, with music by Anna Meredith and stunning digital projections by 59 Productions marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. The all-British programme also features Vaughan Williams' pre-war choral masterpiece Toward the Unknown Region, along with Holst's evergreen Proms favourite The Planets - the first piece Mars, Bringer of War, famously anticipates the onset of mechanistic warfare. The BBC Symphony Orchestra, under conductor Sakari Oramo, is joined by the combined forces of the BBC Symphony Chorus, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the BBC Proms Youth Ensemble. Presented by Katie Derham.

France – and real home from home

SPACIOUS, calm, comforting, a real home-from-home – what more could you ask for in a holiday rental? That's exactly what I discovered at a recently-restored farmhouse in the tiny village of Glatigny in Normandy.

Owners Sam and Francesca Acford have created the perfect escape from our usually frantic lives in a quiet spot close to the most fantastic expanses of beach (often deserted) and minutes away from two charming towns offering a range of bars and restaurants and a wealth of other attractions a little further afield.

They have created a wonderful space from what was basically a shell. There's a large open-plan kitchen, dining room and lounge complete with a huge ornate wood burner (actually made in Ironbridge in Shropshire!).

The stunning beach close to the farmhouse

Open the front door and you enter this living area

VIEW

On the first floor from the landing there is a breathtaking view straight up to the roof timbers neatly framing a traditional French chandelier. This oversized landing has another lounge area, a desk for working on if you really can't leave the office behind, and an extensive library. Off a corridor there are two beautiful bedrooms with original antique furnishings and an imposing, but gorgeous, bathroom with a roll-top bath.

Up a pullout set of stairs and onto the top floor, a mezzanine level which provides another lounge including a third bedroom – a perfect hideway spot and ideal for children! If you need more beds the red Chesterfield sofa and the sofa on the landing are both purpose build 'sofa-beds'.There are also spare mattresses available. But for me, it's perfect for one or two families with a couple of children each.

The kitchen has just about everything you could want and there are two outside courtyards – the front south-facing courtyard is a delight with seating and a large pizza oven/barbecue and a smaller rear courtyard which catches the morning sun. There are also extensive gardens just across the road.

Glatigny is on the western side of the Cotentin peninsula, an area much favoured for summer holidays by Parisians, especially Barnville-Carteret

It is set between the two small towns of La Haye du Puit and Portbail. Both offer a wide range range of shops as well as eateries and cafés along with very good weekly markets. We ate very well in both towns and especially well in Le Hetier. Their menu du jour at lunchtime is great value for money (three courses for around £10) and so tasty. It's where locals eat, and that says a lot.

Both Portbail and Barnville/Carteret offer great equestrian stables for horse riding and the rides along the beach aren't to be missed. Club Hippique 'A Cheval', has a great range of horses and ponies for all sizes and abilities but they also do rides along the beach. That was one experience ticked off my bucket list.

From around June to early September, on most weekends, many towns and villages nearby hold festivals and fêtes with great outdoor music and food. Most towns also have what is called a Brocante, which essentially is a furniture market, but these really are worth a visit as it is very rare such quantities of antiques are under a single roof for such low prices.

Mont St Michel is not too far away, it is a breathtaking place and worth a visit. The Bayeux Tapestry is also close by and is an interesting day out.

A wonderful property in a charming area.

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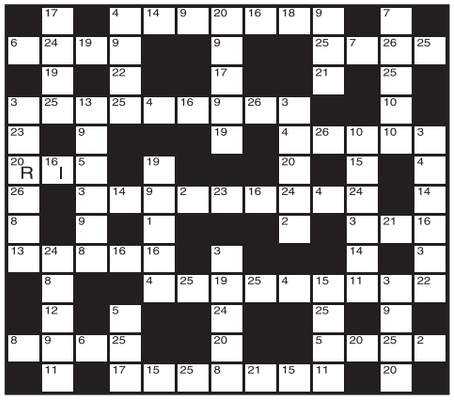
Denplan

BRAIN GYM

No.487

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



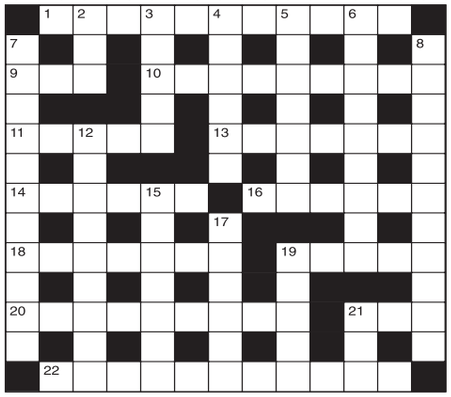
1	14
2	15
3	16 I
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20 R
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	R	P	K	S	N	A	O	I	V	D	T	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	B	H	M	F	G	Z	X	Q	W	U	L	E

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Feeling of optimism engendered by fine liquor? (4,7)
9 & 2Dn. Dine away from home and consume all the food? (3,3)
10. Tall men to make a distribution (9)
11. Put the squeeze on newspapers (5)
13. Having no faith in merit of icy clan (7)
14. Irritate by doing some embroidery? (6)
16. A tense situation in a parliament (6)
18. No let-up for rich in revolution (7)
19. Turner of metal at heavy engineering plant (5)
20. Eastern country where 100 produce eggs for making pottery (5,4)
21. Let the cat out in 22, for example (3)
22. Ignore Della for top part (7,4)

Down

2. See 9 Across
3. Has pull when the scores are level (5)
4. Article in position in royal residence (6)
5. Reunite the train (7)
6. Cutting of furrow by worker (9)
7. Maintain contact without letting the ball come into play (4,2,5)
8. Attending the whole programme in any case (2,3,6)
12. Judicially kill about four in managerial capacity (9)
15. Pull slippery customer up on sheltered side (7)
17. Lets on it's not honestly gained (6)
19. Stratum suitable for egg producer (5)
21. Break the law with this instrument (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Homeliness (11)
9. Also (3)
10. Unfeeling (9)
11. Become void (5)
13. Chiefs (7)
14. Stew (6)
16. Beast (6)
18. Ancestry (7)
19. Less (5)
20. Cheat (9)
21. Everybody (3)
22. Solemnisation (11)

Down

2. Strange (3)
3. The best (5)
4. Struggle (6)
5. Include (7)
6. Dealer (9)
7. Unreliability (11)
8. Stupidly (11)
12. Mournful (9)
15. Fetter (7)
17. Improved (6)
19. Deserve (5)
21. Fuss (3)

Sudoku

		3				9		
	4			1			5	
	2	1		5	7	4		
4				3				8
		5	6		8		4	
3			2	4				9
		4	8	6		2	1	
	5			9				4
		8				7	9	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	2	9	3	8	6	5	4
5	9	4	2	6	7	3	1	8
8	3	6	1	4	5	7	2	9
7	4	1	5	9	2	8	6	3
3	6	9	4	8	1	2	7	5
2	8	5	6	7	3	9	4	1
6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9	7
9	5	7	8	1	6	4	3	2
4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Beau; 3 Compacts; 9 Salamis; 10 Arena; 11 Battle of wits; 13 Lately; 15 Etches; 17 Petty officer; 20 Litre; 21 Perturb; 22 Pleasure; 23 Stud. Down: 1 Baseball; 2 Allot; 4 On show; 5 Play with fire; 6 Cheetah; 7 Seat; 8 Small letters; 12 Ascribed; 14 Theatre; 16 Copper; 18 Court; 19 Slip.
QUICK - Across: 1 Itch; 3 Scribble; 9 Suppose; 10 Tulle; 11 Cheese-paring; 13 Recoil; 15 Cinema; 17 Unsuccessful; 20 Onion; 21 Emotion; 22 Pressing; 23 Once. Down: 1 Insecure; 2 Copse; 4 Creepy; 5 Intermission; 6 Balance; 7 Eden; 8 Constituents; 12 Parlance; 14 Confide; 16 Screen; 18 Feign; 19 Pomp.

Quiz

1. What is the highest mountain on the continent of Europe?
2. With which genre is author Michael Moorcock associated?
3. Which order of chivalry did Princess Anne receive in 1994?
4. Which alcoholic drink is used in making lobster Newburg?
5. Which element has the Latin name plumbum?
6. Who became a Dame and received a Tony award within 48 hours in 1994?
7. What was the first name of baby care writer Dr Spock?
8. Which French tennis player banned her father from attending Wimbledon?
9. In which ocean are the Maldives?
10. Which organisation's agents were nicknamed G-Men?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Japan; 2 Bobby Charlton; 3 Insects; 4 Santa Fe; 5 Hockey; 6 Harvard University; 7 Italy; 8 A pixel; 9 Prunus; 10 Hundred Years' War.

Niner: PROCLAIMS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

768895 gives a dance,
163163 gives a second dance,
423395 gives a poem.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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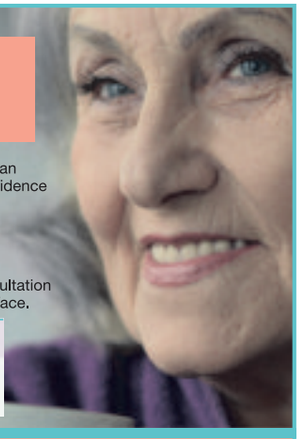
The secret to a natural looking, confident smile



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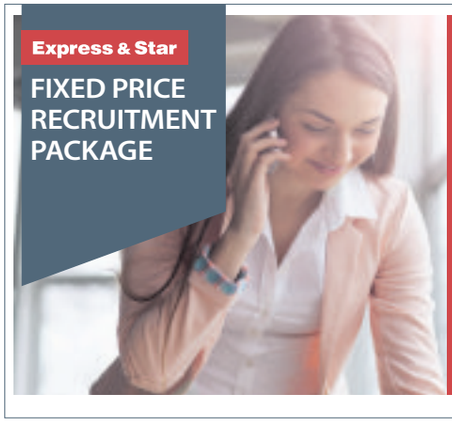

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Semi-detached period property in sought-after area

A magnificent, beautifully appointed period semi-detached property, 17 Thompson Street, The Manor, Willenhall, lies in a highly sought-after area.

Coming with an impressive kitchen and bathroom, three reception rooms and four excellent-sized bedrooms, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £299,950.

This property also comes with a delightful well-established rear garden, a tandem garage and driveway. In full, it has a concrete drive, a block paved front garden, a porch, a downstairs WC, a lounge, an inner hall, a conservatory, a breakfast kitchen, a kitchen, four bedrooms, a bathroom and enclosed rear gardens.

In more detail the reception hall has Minton flooring and stairs leading to the first floor. The downstairs WC has a low flush wc and a pedestal wash hand basin.

The lounge has a bay window to the front and a fireplace with a coal-effect gas fire, while the dining room has a feature fireplace, panelled walls, and sash windows to the side and rear. The inner hall has a door to the side, and the conservatory has tiled flooring and a door to the garden. Also having a fireplace with a coal-effect gas fire, is the breakfast room.

The kitchen has a range of wall and base level units with work surfaces, a single drainer sink unit, a wall-mounted boiler, skylight windows, tiled flooring and space for a range cooker.

Upstairs, bedroom one has a bay window and a feature fireplace. Bedroom two has a sash window, while bedroom three has a cast iron fireplace and a sash window. Bedroom four also has a sash window. The bathroom has a double-ended free standing bath, a shower cubicle, a low flush WC, a vanity wash hand basin and a sash window to the side.

The rear garden includes lawn, block paved patio areas and a garden pond.

WILLENHALL £299,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts Estate Agents
TEL: 01902 631151
EMAIL: willenhall@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

- Beautiful period semi-detached
- Highly sought-after area
- Four excellent bedrooms
- Three reception rooms
- Impressive kitchen & bathroom

They're sold

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ANCHOR ESTATES

Aldridge • Lichfield • Burntwood • Cannock • Sutton Coldfield

Whetstone Lane
Aldridge
- Delightful Detached Bungalow
- Sought After Location
- E.P.C - E

2 1 Price £275,000

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Lichfield Road
Sandhills
- Traditional Detached Home
- Extended Accommodation
- E.P.C. - TBC
- Breakfast Kitchen, Utility & Wc
- Four Bedrooms & En-Suite
- Driveway & Garage

4 2 Price £395,000

Herbert Road
Aldridge
- End Terrace Residence
- Popular Location
- E.P.C. - TBC

3 1 Price £164,950

Marshall Close
Aldridge
- Semi-Detached Residence
- Comprehensively Improved
- E.P.C. - D

3 1 Price £247,950

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Sold House Price	Local Estate Agents Average Fee	Anchor Estate Agents Fees	Anchor Estate Agents Introductory Offer	Your Savings With Anchor Estates*
£100,000	£1200 (inc vat)	£900 (inc vat)	£600 (inc vat)	50%
£150,000	£1800 (inc vat)	£1350 (inc vat)	£900 (inc vat)	50%
£200,000	£2400 (inc vat)	£1800 (inc vat)	£1200 (inc vat)	50%
£250,000	£3000 (inc vat)	£2250 (inc vat)	£1500 (inc vat)	50%
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* Compared to the average local estate agents fee

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Mill Road
Pelsall
- Exquisite Traditional Residence
- Improved Accommodation
- E.P.C. - D

4 1 Price £227,950

Great Charles Street
Brownhills
- Semi-Detached Residence
- Affordable Family Home
- E.P.C - D

3 1 Price £159,950

Greenhill Way
Aldridge
- Impressive Link Detached
- Sought After Location
- E.P.C. - TBC

3 1 Price £229,950

Brickyard Road
Aldridge
- Luxury Modern Apartment
- Sought After Development
- E.P.C. - C

2 1 Price £129,950

Sandbeds Road
Willenhall
- Stunning Modern Detached
- Individually Designed
- E.P.C. - B

4 2 Price £275,000

Berryfields
Aldridge
- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Sought After Location
- E.P.C. - D

3 1 Price £249,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Wood End Way (Off Branchal Road)
Aldridge
- Link-Detached Bungalow
- Sought After Location
- Generous Accommodation
- E.P.C. - E
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Two Generous Bedrooms

2 1 Price £229,950

Greenwood Road
Aldridge
- Impressive Family Residence
- Sought After Location
- E.P.C. - D

3 1 Price £189,950

NO SALE, NO FEE AND NO HIDDEN COSTS!

CALL US NOW TO FIND OUT MORE!

Individually designed home in sought-after village location

PELSALL
£375,000 <<<

Situated in one of the village's most sought-after roads, and close to Pelsall's picturesque common, this four-bedroomed detached house in Station Road, is for sale through Marrion & Co at offers over £375,000.

With gas central heating and double glazed, its accommodation briefly comprise an entrance hall/stairs, a guests cloakroom room/WC, a lounge, an interconnecting dining room, a breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms (master with en-suite and built-in furniture), a bathroom/WC, a study/fifth bedroom, a garage, driveway and front and rear gardens.

This individually designed detached family home is thought to date from the early 1990s.

For further information, contact Marrion & Co on 01922 404446.

Three-bedroomed mid-terrace house

BLOXWICH
£138,000

Extended and refurbished, this excellent three-bedroomed mid-terrace town house in the Lower Farm area of Bloxwich in Buxton Close, is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £138,000.

The spacious internal accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a generous lounge, a dining room and a re-fitted breakfast kitchen.

To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a re-fitted family bathroom.

The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. There is a front garden and and to the rear there is an enclosed garden having timber gates giving useful access to off-road parking.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606 595.

SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

For sale by auction on Wednesday 18th July at Aston Villa Football Ground. Commencing at 10.30am

15-19 Spring Head, Wednesbury

A freehold investment comprising five commercial units and nine residential dwellings.

Current rental income: £71,140pa.

Guide Price* : £600,000 - £625,000 (plus fees)

Former Sprintz Health & Fitness Club, Cramp Hill, Wednesbury

A spacious freehold former health club.

Considered suitable for a wide variety of alternative leisure/hospitality uses or a continuation of its most recent use as a health, fitness and squash club.

Guide Price* : £275,000 (plus fees)

12-14 Lower Brook Street, Rugeley

A freehold two storey well-let retail investment located in a prominent position.

Current gross income: £26,500pa.

Guide Price* : £260,000 - £280,000 (plus fees)

42 Westmore Way, Wednesbury

A vacant freehold detached property standing back from the road behind a driveway, foregarden and side garage.

Guide Price* : in excess of £120,000 (plus fees)

8 Yemscroft, Lichfield Road, Walsall

A leasehold ground floor purpose-built two bedroomed apartment and garage set in communal grounds.

Guide Price* : £44,000 - £48,000 (plus fees)

6 Bridge Street, Wednesbury

A freehold commercial investment within an established industrial location.

Current rent passing: £6,825pa.

Guide Price* : £40,000 (plus fees)

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www.sdlauctions.co.uk

* Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or – 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be + able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee.

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01902 606 595 L&S PRESTIGE ESTATES

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OIEO £650,000

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OIEO £300,000

ESSINGTON

LONG LANE, ESSINGTON
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OIEO £285,000

WEDNESFIELD

BLUEBELL CRES, W'TON
Four Bed Detached Corner Plot, Lounge/Diner, Refitted Modern Kitchen, Utility, En-Suite To Master, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating & D/Glazing, Garage & Driveway, South Facing Rear Garden

OIEO £220,000

BILSTON

WILLENHALL RD, W'TON
Immaculate Three Bed Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Open Plan Kitchen, Conservatory, Modern Refitted Shower Room, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Garage, Private Rear Garden, Block Paved Driveway

OIEO £175,000

BENTLEY

BENTLEY RD NORTH, WALSALL
Extended Four Bedroom Semi, Generous Lounge/ Diner, Extended Kitchen, C/Heating & D/Glazing, First Floor Shower Room, Loft Conversion, Generous Rear Garden, Driveway, Overlooking Bentley Pavillion

OIEO £165,000

COPPICE FARM

REDWOOD WAY, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Two Bed Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 27ft Dining Room, Modern Refitted Bathroom, C/Heating & Maj. D/Glazing, Block Paved Driveway, Sought After Location, Ideal FTB

OIEO £155,000

WILLENHALL

SLATER STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, G/Glazing & Rear Garden. Ideal FTB Or BTL Investment.

100,000 OIEO

SUMMER HAYES

FENN RISE, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Bungalow, Spacious Lounge, Extended Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bedroom, Ground Floor Family Bathroom, Two First Floor Bedrooms, D/ Glazing & C/Heating

OIEO £170,000

COUNTY BRIDGE

CORONATION AVE, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi, Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Fitted Bathroom, Useful Loft Room, Majority D/Glazing & C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Must Be Viewed

OIEO £160,000

ROSEHILL

PARKES STREET, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi, Entrance Porch, Good Sized Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Ground Floor Family Bathroom, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, D/ Glazing & C/Heating

OIEO £110,000

ST THOMAS LAWNS

AMPLEFORTH DR, W'HALL
Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Great FTB/BTL, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & Electric Heating, Allocated Parking Space

OIEO £100,000

ST THOMAS LAWNS

YALE ROAD, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed First Floor Apartment, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/ Heating, Allocated Parking, Popular Location, Ideal FTB Or BTL

£90,000

BILSTON

OXFORD STREET, BILSTON
Spacious Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Shared Parking Facility, Bungalow Alternative

OIEO £80,000

WEDNESFIELD

MERRICK ROAD, WEDNESFIELD
One Bed First Floor Flat, Fully Refurbished, Refitted Modern Kitchen, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating & D/Glazing, Rear Garden

OIEO £75,000

WILLENHALL

SHEPWELL GREEN, W'HALL
One Bed Ground Floor Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking, Great F.T.B Or B.T.L, Great Little Project

OIRO £40,000

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- Front Reception Room
- Rear Reception Room
- Utility Area
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted
- EPC-TBC

£550 PCM

Bembridge Close, Coppice Farm

- Two bedroom town house
- Lounge
- Kitchen/ Diner
- Conservatory
- Shower Room
- Driveway
- garage
- fully enclosed garden
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- EPC 71

£600 PCM

Woodall Street, Bloxwich

- FOUR BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with French Doors
- Conservatory with Internal Access to Garage
- Garden with side gate access
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers.
- EPC 76

£750 PCM

Broadway North, Walsall

- Over 60 Retirement Apartment
- New Build
- Ground Floor
- One Bedroom
- Walk in Shower Room
- Communal Lounge

£850 PCM

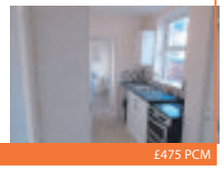
Hollybank Avenue , Willenhall,

- Semi-detached house
- Two bedroom
- Located in a cul-de-sac
- Gas central heating
- Driveway and single garage
- EPC-TBC

£650 PCM

Prince Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- double glazing
- gas central heating
- Front Reception Room
- Rear Lounge
- EPC 60



£475 PCM

Gallery Square , Walsall

- Third Floor Apartment
- Two Bedroom
- Walsall Town Centre
- Electric Heating
- Communal Entrance and Lift
- EPC-TBC

£525 PCM

Booth Street , Wednesbury

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Family Bathroom
- Kitchen & conservatory
- EPC-TBC

£550 PCM

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two reception rooms
- fitted kitchen
- family bathroom
- double glazing
- EPC 41

£475 PCM

Regent House, Green Lane,

- Two Bed Apartment
- 5th Floor
- Lounge with Balcony
- Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- EPC -83

£450 PCM

Parker Street , Bloxwich

- End of terrace property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Sorry No DHSS
- EPC-55

£550 PCM

Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom
- 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Shower over Bath
- EPC-78

£475 PCM

Argyll Court, Willenhall

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Large bedroom
- Bathroom with Shower
- EPC 81

£450 PCM

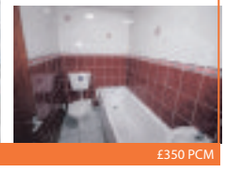
Broad lane , Bloxwich

- One Bedroom First
- First Floor Maisonette
- UPVC windows
- Shared Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted
- EPC-32

£350PCM

Lichfield Road , Rushall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Rating: 10
- DHSS Accepted



£350 PCM

Market Place, Willehnall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Town Centre Location
- Close to Transport Links
- Deceptively Spacious
- Rating-47

£400 PCM

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Par Court, Sanstone Road, Bloxwich
NEW £429,950

2 | 5 | 3 | EPC B

Woodside Close, Off Skip Lane, Walsall
Guide Price £315,000

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Thompson Street, The Manor, Willenhall
NEW £299,950

3 | 4 | 1 | EPC D

Hinges Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
REDUCED £297,500

2 | 4 | 2 | EPC C

Somerford Place, Willenhall
£290,000

2 | 4 | 2 | EPC E

Enderley Drive, Bloxwich
NEW £260,000

2 | 2 | 1 | EPC TBC

Farbrook Way, Summer Hayes, Willenhall
NEW £240,000

1 | 2/3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Birmingham Road, Walsall
Guide Price £240,000

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Catches Drive, Bloxwich Walsall
OIXO £200,000

2 | 4 | 2 | EPC C

Furzebank Way, Willenhall
NEW OIXO £200,000

2 | 4 | 1 | EPC D

Kewstoke Road, Willenhall
OIXO £175,000

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Chatsworth Close, Willenhall
£130,000

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC D

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NEW

Griffins Crescent, Walsall
Walsall

- Corner Plot
- Private Griveway
- Kitchen/Diner
- Gardens
- Guests WC
- Viewing Recommended
- 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- EPC Rating - C

£240,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW

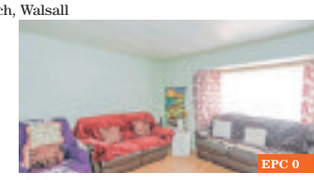
Walker Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall

- Stunning Ground Floor
- Bathroom
- Hallway
- Garage
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Parking
- 2 Bedrooms
- Communal Gardens

£94,950

REDUCED

Fountains Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



- Popular Location
- Bathroom, Separate WC
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Driveway
- Kitchen
- Gardens
- 3 Bedrooms
- EPC Rating - tbc

£120,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW

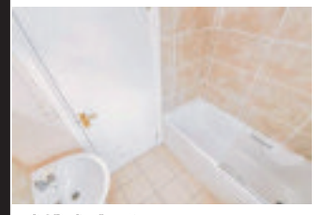
Roebuck Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall

- Spacious Terrace Home
- Utility, Guests WC
- Hallway, Lounge
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Dining Room
- Shower Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- EPC Rating - tbc

£125,000

NEW

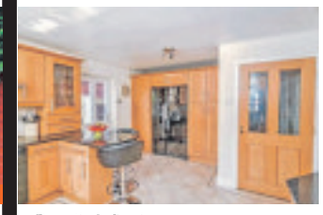
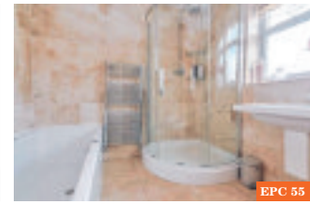
Larkspur Way, Clayhanger, Walsall
Clayhanger, Walsall



- Cul De Sac Location
- Landscaped Gardens
- Hall, WC
- Driveway & Garage
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Viewing Recommended
- 3 Bedrooms
- EPC Rating - C

£199,950

Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall

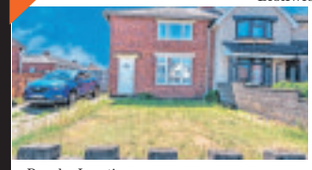



- Deceptively Spacious
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Family Home
- Bathroom, Utility/WC
- Extended Lounge
- Garage, Driveway
- Breakfast Kitchen
- EPC Rating - D

£240,000

NEW

Hamilton Street, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



- Popular Location
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Driveway
- Guests WC
- Gardens
- Refitted Shower Room
- NO CHAIN

£115,000

South Crescent, Featherstone, Wolverhampton
Featherstone, Wolverhampton

- Lovely Bungalow
- Shower Room
- Lounge Diner
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Kitchen & Utilty
- Cul De Sac Location
- Two Bedrooms
- NO CHAIN

£135,000

"Service you expect from the Agent that delivers"

The Chronicle Thursday, July 5, 2018

Metallic red Micra makes you smile

By Carmel Stewart

Oh, how we will miss the economy of our diesel-powered cars when they are finally eradicated from our roads.

The 1.5dci humming nicely away under the bonnet of the stylish Nissan Micra hatchback, for example, achieved an astonishing 77.9mpg on a run of about 130 miles and that included a couple of city centres and the inevitable motorway road works.

Official stats show an average of 83mpg is achievable in the unlikely event of a mechanically steady right foot, a prevailing wind and a traffic free run. CO2 emissions puther out at the rate of 97g/km.

If petrol is your preferred option, Nissan gives you the choice of either a 0.9litre, 90ps, three-cylinder turbo, or a 1.0litre 71ps petrol. Expect an average 64mpg/99g/km from the former and 61mpg/103g/kg from the latter. All engines are linked to a neat and tidy five-speed manual transmission.

The vehicle itself is as impressive in appearance as it is in performance. Longer, lower, and wider than the previous model, the five-door Micra has quietly developed into a stylish and sophisticated vehicle with neat styling outside and quality materials inside.

In the spacious cabin the dash is particularly striking, wrapped as it is in soft-touch, two-tone, faux-leather. There is reasonable leg room and plenty of head room, all seats are well upholstered and comfortable. The front two are grippy and supportive.

At 300 litres, the deep lipped boot is more than sufficient for the supermarket shopping or the family luggage. Drop the rear seat and that expands to 1,004 litres and there are various storage spaces dotted around the cabin.

The dash is particularly striking

The vehicle is impressive in appearance

It's a stylish and sophisticated vehicle with neat styling outside and quality materials inside

Classy features include recessed rear door handle a la Alfa Romeo in days gone by, a large leather-wrapped, flat-bottomed steering wheel and an optional Bose sound system that includes speakers in the driver's headrest.

Behind the wheel, the French-built Micra is as much fun to drive as it is to look at, being agile, composed and with plenty of oomph from the 1.5litre diesel engine.

The suspension is particularly well-tuned and deals admirably with our (horrible) road surfaces thanks to Nissan's Intelligent Ride Control which automatically makes minute adjustments to the set-up – ditto the intelligent Trace Control which is Nissan's version of torque vectoring.

Safety features now include Intelligent Lane Intervention, a safety system which gently nudges the Micra back on to the right path should it be required and a very useful blind spot monitor.

Specification levels depend on the trim selected - Visia, Visia+, Acenta, N-Connecta or Tekna. Standard spec at entry-level includes LED daytime running lights, hill start assist, Bluetooth and six airbags. A step up to Acenta is needed for smartphone connectivity.

And, for those who really like to make their mark, there are more than 100 personalisation options.

Prices start at £12,750 for the Visia rising to £18,090 for the Tekna top spec which includes rear parking sensors and rear-view camera, 17-inch alloys, rear roof spoiler, cruise control, electric front windows, rain sensing wipers and high beam assist which is a real boon for night driving as the headlamps automatically switch from dipped to high beam.

A deep red metallic exterior finish adds £575 to the cost and a smile every time you look at it.

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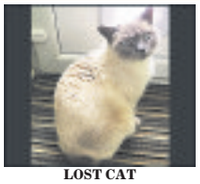

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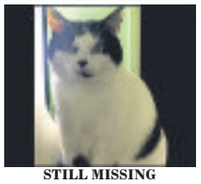

STILL MISSING
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36x10ft one bedroom, full kitchen and bathroom. Riverside site, own a 15th of site. Low ground rent. Near S.V.Railway at Hampton Loade.
£65,000
01746 862076.

Holiday Home for sale -2017 Willerby Wrekin
BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
01743 885080
www.severnoakspark.co.uk

holidays

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Auctions

★ **ANTIQUE/ COLLECTABLES AUCTION** ★
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL, CALFHEATH, CANNOCK, WV10 7DW
Monday 9th July
AUCTION STARTS 6PM - VIEWING 4.30PM
★ 07775 951464 ★

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

Summer Fayre

ST. MARYS SUMMER FETE
at
St. Mary's Church, Leveson Street, Willenhall. WV13 1DA.
Saturday July 7, at 2pm. Admission 20p.

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
House Clearances & Collections arranged at short notice for our monthly auctions
01782 638100

Furniture

LEATHER CHESTERFIELD settee, Brown, model still current and still manufactured, cost £2000, sell £700. 01889 577390.

In Your Garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
or 01922 712184

AT SHEDRITE order Sheds, Cabins, Summerhouses/Playhouses. Willenhall Rd WV1 2HQ 01902 450137

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.95 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

LAWN TURF SUPPLIES
LUSH GREEN GARDEN TURF
CUT FRESH IN EASY TO LAY ROLLS. DELIVERIES DAILY
TRENT VALLEY TURF
01902 738217

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

✔ **A GENUINE LADY BUYER** ✔
PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY TYPE OF GOLD
Any type of gold wanted, e.g 9 carat gold. Jewellery from £300+ per oz. Sovereigns £200+ each
Any amount collected. Gold coins, silver, all medals, bank notes, old brassware, old cameras, oriental items, anything old, interesting or collectable
Call Pauline on
01922 495066
✔ or 07971 783206 ✔

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
Checkatrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A A CLEAR VISION AERIALS
Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV
Aerials from £79
Dishes from £79
OAP DISCOUNT
01902 752036

A AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST
Digital Aerials Fitted
Sky & CCTV Cameras
Free Quotes. 7 days
07850 330251

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £395. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Driveways & Patios

TW LANDSCAPES
Driveway Restoration Specialists
Cleaning & Sealing, Patios, Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
All aspects of Landscaping, Fencing, Patios, Walls
New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Free no obligation quotation
call: 01785 878574
or 07845 483443

Electrical Services

MB ELECTRIC.CO.UK Home wiring specialist. NICEIC. High quality local service. Freephone; 0800 211 8398 / 07939 503905

Gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Electricians

Express & Star

ELECTRICIANS!

CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT

(T&Cs Apply)

Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Fencing

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £795
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gardening Services

OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382

P.W.C LANDSCAPE SERVICES
All garden, tree and jet washing work undertaken
FENCING - SUPPLY & FIT
WE WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE!
01922 331171 07779 975563

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES Quick, discreet and professional. 07939 421862 / 01902 410433

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

Painters/ Decorators

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience.City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

ADMJ
Decorating & Maintenance
City and Guilds. No Job Too Small.
OAP Discounts
FREE QUOTES
07855 957935 01902 630028

H COOPER & SON LANDSCAPING
WE CAN TRANSFORM OR MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN
- Garden Walls
- Patios
- Fencing
- Turfing
- General Gardening

NO JOB TOO SMALL
For high quality jobs done with pride and at a very fair price.
Call: 07904 929632

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

Plastering

D&C PLASTERING AND RENDERING Fast, clean, reliable service. Also building work. Free Quotes 07793 747829 or 01543 300444.

Plumbing & Heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

A RELIABLE PLUMBER No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call or text Will free quotes on: 07521 411108.

Removals

A DJ REMOVALS/ house clearance/single item. Budget rates/reliable. 01902 652346 /07912 980177

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

Roofing

MASONS ROOFWORKS
A SMALL COMPANY WHO DO NOT USE CONTRACTORS.
GUTTERS CLEANED OUT FROM £60
Ridge Tiles Re-bedded/pointed
New and Flat Roofs.
Gutters and Fascias
All aspects of Roofing undertaken.
Free quotes.
All Work Guaranteed.
01922 278012
0800 689 0932

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

Waste management
SB
Recycling services
01902 459667
0121 558 2120
01543 500 599

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US -
Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
82 Pikehelve Street,
West Bromwich, B70 0TU

ENC Skip Hire Ltd
We are doing a summer deal on Mini skips for £85 look on our website for more deals on Skips
ENC Skip Hire Ltd
07475040066
www.encskiphireltd.co.uk

WOLVERHAMPTON SKIP HIRE
MINI, MIDI & BUILDERS SKIPS WITH DOORS
Established 26 years
Call:
01902 722876

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

HEDGEHOG HOUSES, cedar treated with waterproof animal friendly preservative, £40. Cheslyn Hay. 01922 419532/07837 409533.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

QUALITY KOI CARP, from 5" to 10". Call Steve on 07857 893607.

SHORKIES Shih tzu cross Yorkshire terriers, 8 weeks old, 3 boys, 3 girls, tiny, friendly, Mom and Dad can be seen, good with children. £300. 07905 582550.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios
from £90pw*
Rooms
from £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

THREE VERY CLEAN BEDROOMS for 3 individuals at £100pw per room or all 3 bedrooms for a family. Family price maybe negotiable. Caldmore area, Walsall. Telephone 07459 292944.

WALSALL bedsit with en-suite and rooms to let. Fully furnished. 07825 581676.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

Building & Construction

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYERS & LABOURERS with CSCS cards, Walsall town centre. 07971 206417

MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS (x3) REQUIRED
to carry out reactive and planned maintenance on care homes and student accommodation across the Midlands
Semi skilled trades
Company vehicle available
Salary negotiable
Tel 07976 954045

Part Time - General

WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED RECEPTIONIST
for our busy clinic to answer telephone, deal with queries and manage our patients. 9 hours every Saturday and must be flexible to cover others during the week when needed.
Walsall area.
CV to Kim Swain on info@ walsallchiropracticclinic .co.uk

Properties Wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
We will buy your house fast!
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!
Call 01922 235 885
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 17-18 November
Accredited ocn

Learn how to take blood ...
TRAIN AS A **PHLEBOTOMIST**
Introduction to Phlebotomy
- TWO DAY COURSE - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: **www.geopace.com**
High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

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We provide Training in:
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Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

MUST BE SEEN

MAZDA MX5 EUNOS ROADSTER
1993 automatic, blue, lots of work already done, MoT ran out April 2018, sadly has to go due to ill health.
Genuine offers only
£650.
0121 505 3101.

NISSAN MICRA VISIA
2011 June
17,300 miles
Red, 5dr hatchback,
11 months MoT.
£2,750.
01785 214276.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
SAAB 9.3 TID
2008, 76,000 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, diesel, alloys, CD, owned since 2009, beautiful condition.
£2,650.
07896 963650.

BARGAIN
SUZUKI JIMNY
4 x 4
1300CC
04 reg.
Mot'd.
Good condition throughout.
£2,500
or Part Exchange for Motorhome or Camper Van.
01543 375409 / 07866 407209.

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CITROEN C4 PICASSO
Platinum blue.
MoT March 2019.
Full dealer Citroen service history.
31,800 miles.
Excellent condition.
£6,995.
Telephone 01543 572265.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN
FORD FIESTA
1.4.
2004.
3 door. Hatchback.
Petrol. 76.000 miles.
Silver.
Full MoT. Spare Key.
History. E/W. A/C. RCL.
Three former owners.
£995.
07838 897643.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
PEUGEOT 206
1.4, 52 reg, 3-dr hatchback, silver, petrol, manual, MoT'd till June 2019, 52,500 miles, factory fitted sunroof.
Good first car, used daily.
£500.
01922 442750.

PEUGEOT 206 ZEST
1.1, 3-dr, 05 reg, black, only 69,000 miles, service histotry, one lady owner from new, long MoT,
Stunning condition.
£995.
07596 223665.

LOOK
VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ENERGY
07 reg. Mot January.
Blue. Factory tinted window at rear.
Good condition and drives well.
£995 ono.
07415 013857.

Classic Cars

FORD FIESTA RS1800
1993, 86,000 miles, nice blue, metallic paint. Now a classic will only go up in value, great investment, only 50 of these left on the road.
£7,500 ono.
07711 822772.

Motorbikes

YAMAHA MT-07 ABS
14 reg, 700cc, only 3000 miles, very good condition.
mot Aug 18
£4,300 ono
07958 316971.

Scrap Vehicles

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

mainline Salvage & Recovery
- *SCRAP CARS WANTED*
- *FREE COLLECTION*
- *TOP PRICES PAID*

Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicle Hire

DALLAS
Vans Starting from £35
Wide variety of vans:
Van hire ..
Small
Large
Lutons
Tippers
Flats
Dropsides
Crew
Refrigerated
Minibus
13A , Woden Road West, Wednesbury, WS10 7SF
www.dallas-hire.co.uk Tel: 0121 647 7112

spares & accessories

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

WEST MIDS TRANSMISSIONS Reconditioned Gearboxes and Clutch Change. 07710 429803

10 Personals

Personal

100's of lonely women seeking men for casual dates & more. easy / discreet. Call NOW 07008 026348.

18+ SWAP NUMBERS†with local HOTTIES seeking Adult Fun! 01902 489 181/ txt: 07860 021670

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Cinema Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

Personal

LOOKING FOR MAE (MAY ?)
Half Japanese, Half Chinese.(Hong Kong).
Your mobile number no longer working.
Brian looking for you.
Box Number P21239 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PRESENTABLE, MATURE GENTLEMAN
Solvent. GSOH. No ties.
WLTM respectable, smart lady with no ties, 40-65.
For Friendship, days out, social evenings, holidays etc.
ALA Photo if possible (returned)
Box Number P21243 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG, MODERN, STRAIGHT, SINGLE LADY 64
No ties.
WLTM girlfriends for days out, holidays abroad, occasional evenings in Walsall area.
Box Number P21240 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

9 Local Information

Public Notices

BETTY BEATRICE CARROLL (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 33 Summer Lane High Heath Pelsall Walsall WS4 1DS, who died on 23/02/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 07/09/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ENOCH EVANS LLP
St Paul's Chambers 6-9 Hatherton Road
Walsall WS1 1XS T533791

RICHARD JOHN MALPASS BRAMWELL (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 16 The Leasow Walsall West Midlands WS9 0EF, who died on 22/04/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/09/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ADCOCKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Lombard Street Lichfield
Staffordshire WS13 6DP T533967

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SELL IT FAST
SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Deadline for comments on or before: **19th July 2018**

APP NO: 18/0622 BY: Accord Housing Assocation FOR: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT : WORKS TO BOUNDARY WALL TO INCLUDE REMOVAL/REPAIRS AND REBUILD. AT: ALMS HOUSES, WEDNESBURY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3RP

APP NO: 18/0623 BY: Accord Housing Assocation FOR: REBUILDING AND REPAIRS TO THE BOUNDARY WALLS INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF ALL TREES GROWING AT THE BACK OF THE WALLS AND IN THE FAR CORNER OF TASKER STREET. AT: ALMS HOUSES, WEDNESBURY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3RP

APP NO: 18/0684 BY: Royal Bank Of Scotland FOR: REMOVAL OF EXISTING FASCIAS, SIGNAGE, ATM, NIGHTSAFE, RECEIPT RECEPTABLE AND MAKING GOOD OF EXTERIOR AT: THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC, 139-144, LICHFIELD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1SE

APP NO: 18/0707 BY: A Saunders FOR: CHANGE OF USE OF LAND FROM AGRICULTURAL TO EQUESTRIAN USE. CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL GENERAL PURPOSE BUILDING TO 9 STABLES AND THE FORMATION OF A 20 X 60M MENAGE WITH FENCED ENCLOSURE. AT: LAND SOUTH EAST OF BIRCH LANE, ALDRIDGE

BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS
WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO
1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING
Where we find out about you!
2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING
The important bit.
3. AUDIO PRODUCTION
Music or voice over?
4. POST PRODUCTION
Where the finishing touches happen.
5. VIDEO ADVERTISING
Want even more exposure?
CALL 01902 319730
Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising
MNA DIGITAL

SELL YOUR ITEMS LOCALLY

up to the value of £250 FREE...

NO HIDDEN COSTS EVER!

*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of £250, simply fill out the details below or book online at **bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk**

ADVERT DETAILS (ONE WORD PER BOX, 12 WORDS IN TOTAL)

ADVERT 1

ADVERT 2

ADVERT 3

ALWAYS FREE

EVERY WEEK EVERY DAY ALL YEAR!

Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ Email: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel N°: _____

Please send to Classified Ads, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

*Private advertisers only, no guns, no pets, no livestock. Limited time only.
Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

Buy Local, Sell Local, 01902 317878 ClassifiedAds

Joshua at Bar Sport, Cannock with world class boxing referee Terry O'Connor from Codsall

At Wolverhampton Racecourse Joshua with, left, James Ward (Gold Star) and, right, Andy Sahota (Showfighter)

Champion Anthony Joshua with his array of belts

Anthony Joshua defeated Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley last year

How Joshua is rewriting the boxing record books

WHEN it comes to sporting superstars, they don't come any bigger than Anthony Joshua.

Humble, hungry and infectiously happy, the WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight champion of the world is doing something British boxing has never seen before.

In just 21 fights he has reached the top of his sport – with American Deontay Wilder, the holder of the WBC belt, the only man standing in his way from making history and unifying the entire division.

And his next fight, says promoter Eddie Hearn, will be against Russian Alexander Povetkin.

It's the way Joshua has gone about his business though that has seen him grow a fanbase like no other. While sports fans idolise him, Joshua's politeness and joy for life has seen him capture the hearts of the nation. And he recently treated fans in Wolverhampton and Cannock to meet and greet sessions.

The reality is everyone and their nan loves the Hertfordshire-born heavyweight, who seemingly hasn't changed despite a rag-to-riches tale.

Wealthy beyond his wildest dreams, it is only in the past 12 months the 28-year-old has moved out of the former council flat he shared with his mother in Golders Green.

Determined

His new house is nearby and a 15-minute drive from a £500,000 Finchley apartment he bought for his ex-girlfriend and their infant son, Joseph.

But while he is now a superstar with the world at his feet, Joshua isn't getting carried away. And he is absolutely determined to enjoy his life and time in the spotlight. He said recently when meeting fans in the city: "I'm in Wolverhampton, I've never been here before and I want to come back next week because it is lively.

"It's a two-hour drive from my home and I've never been here, can you believe it? I need to start exploring. We're three hours from Morocco by plane. Two hours from France on the Eurostar.

"I hear athletes that say they can't do things because of their insurance policy. I'm not going to protect myself from reality. I'm not having that, let's go out and have a good time. Let's do it, let's have fun."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"I've not reached my peak. I have made a few mistakes and I know what I want to achieve"

When speaking to Joshua, two things are clear. The first is that he is incredibly grateful for the life he now has. He may have worked incredibly hard to get there, but you'll never hear him moan.

"I'm not complaining about anything," he continued. "You just have to learn how to deal with the hard work. I'm smiling. Hard work has been my breakthrough. I'm not the most talented so I've got to enjoy the hard work."

The second thing that strikes you about him is how obsessed – repeat, obsessed – he is by becoming the best he can be. He knows he is on the brink of being regarded as one of the all-time greats – and that is something he isn't going to let pass him by.

"I'm very comfortable with where I am now," he continued. "I've not reached my peak. I have made a few mistakes and I know what I want to achieve.

"This is not about the money. What will make me content is knowing I gave my best.

"There is no financial package out there that can make you feel content with your life. I want to give it my all, that is what matters to me.

"One day – and that day will come – I don't want to sit watching the next generation of boxers thinking I didn't achieve my potential.

"I want to give it my best – inside and outside the ring. Now I see myself as a student of boxing. I'm always watching old fights. I love Evander Holyfield. He is the first fighter I have watched that I can really learn from. He has got rhythm. And I respect him so much because he didn't dodge anyone.

"Mike Tyson didn't box Riddick Bowe. Riddick Bowe didn't fight Lennox Lewis. But Holyfield fought Tyson, Lewis and Riddick. He boxed them all. What a man – the ultimate warrior."

Joshua's rise to the top has been unprecedented. After winning gold at the London Olympics in 2012, he seriously contemplated defending his title in Brazil four years later. Instead, he made what, for him, was a difficult decision to go pro.

Yet he has since stormed through the heavyweight division with his eye-catching win over Wladimir Klitschko one of the greatest bouts of all time.

Away from the ring though, things haven't always been plain sailing. In 2009, Joshua was put on remand in Reading Prison for what he describes as 'fighting and other crazy stuff'. Then in March 2011, he was pulled over for speeding, with police finding cannabis hidden in a sports bag. And Joshua admits there was a time when he was in danger of losing his way.

"At school, I couldn't sit down for six hours a day – I was an active kid," he said. "It's hard to go from lesson to lesson. Some kids excel at that, but most kids want to be out.

Respectful

"I think my teachers would say I was a nice kid because I was always respectful, but I was a little bit disruptive at times.

"I was still getting into a bit of trouble up until about 2011. I was in London. I lived on an estate and I wanted to party and go out drinking.

"But I was a member of an amateur boxing club and I got a call to go up to Sheffield to be involved with the Olympic team.

"I hadn't come from a sporting background. I didn't have a clue what Olympic boxing was. But I went there to see what it was about and they kept me on the development squad.

"I wanted to kind of keep my hustle going on. I focused on balancing the two. But I remember, one day, speaking to my friend and saying 'I think I might be OK at this boxing thing.'

"I was about 20 years old. But I never went into boxing to be a boxer it was more about confidence."

Joshua admits both his parents are proud of how he has since dedicated his life to his sport.

"I wasn't ever looking for trouble, I was always respectful because that is how my parents raised me," the fighter said.

Star-studded match for Air Ambulance

CELEBRITIES from the world of music, television and Hollywood will converge on Walsall FC next year for a charity match in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

The star-studded match, on May 11, is being organised by Sellebrity Soccer and Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Celebrities taking part include Calum Best, actor Stephen Graham and former Blue member Lee Ryan. Ex-footballers Darren Byfield and Paul Konchesky are also hoping to line-up. More players and special guest managers will be announced later.

Early bird supporters can buy tickets until December for £10 for adults and £5 for under 14s. Tickets are on sale at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc/details/event.aspx?eventref=1798

A limited number of VIP Tickets are available at £35 per person, with access to the Players' Lounge before and after the match. A celebrity player pre-match dinner on May 10 costs £50 per person. Limited sponsorship packages are also available on 0800 8402040.

Old clubs in friendly clash for Regis Trophy

WEST BROM will host Coventry City at The Hawthorns in a pre-season friendly to celebrate the life of Cyrille Regis.

The Baggies will face the Sky Blues, with whom Regis won the FA Cup in 1987, on Saturday, July 28, in their final warm-up game before the Championship season starts. The two clubs will be competing for the inaugural Cyrille Regis Memorial Trophy in honour of the iconic striker who died aged 59 in January. Ticket details will be announced at a later date.

It is hoped other Midlands clubs will contest the trophy in years to come.

Legendary forward Regis was a close friend and mentor of Albion head coach Darren Moore, who has helped organise the memorial match together with the Regis family.

"It's a real honour," said Cyrille's widow Julia. "I think Cyrille would be slightly embarrassed and amused by the attention but that speaks volumes about who he was, understated. In our grief we have taken great comfort by the love everyone has shown and continues to do."

Uni team steps out on football pyramid

THE University of Wolverhampton men's football team has entered a team in the Football League pyramid. The team already plays in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition but from next season will also enter a team into the Total Motion Midlands Football League.

Known as WLV Football FC the team will be made up of university staff and students, as well as the community, and will play in the league's third division.

The league is the 12th tier of the national football pyramid and is seven tiers away from the National League.

The team is based at the University's Walsall Campus and pre-season training has kicked off this week.

Anyone joining the university in September, or a current student who wants to be involved, should contact Martin Longworth by phone on 07926 647811 or email m.longworth@wlv.ac.uk or James Dale, sports manager, at james.dale@wlv.ac.uk

Sport

Knockout! Champ Joshua is rewriting record books

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Battle of the Baggies II on Khan bill

THE long-awaited Battle of the Baggies II will provide chief support to Amir Khan's return to Birmingham in September.

Jason Welborn and Tommy Langford will head a packed undercard at Arena Birmingham in a British Middleweight title rematch. Welborn won the title from Langford via a split decision in May. Stourbridge's Sam Eggington will feature on the September 8 undercard.

The headline bout is Khan's battle with Samuel Vargas. Also on bill is Ryan Kelly, defending the Midlands Area super welterweight title he won in May via stoppage at Villa Park against unbeaten Dordon man Kelcie Ball, and super bantamweight star Gamal Yafai. But the Welborn-Langford clash is the one that all Midland boxing fans are looking forward to.

"We are delighted to have secured the rematch on such a big show," said Errol Johnson, of Black Country Boxing. "We thank Eddie Hearn and Matchroom Boxing for adding this fight to their bill.

"The first fight was worthy of television, so it's great to know that the wider boxing public will be able to witness the second instalment."

Welborn stunned big favourite Langford at Walsall Town Hall in May to take the British middleweight title – two judges gave the bout to Welborn by 114-113 with the third judge awarding it to Langford at 115-113.

Tickets are £40, £60, £80, £100 and £200 VIP from www.StubHub.co.uk or at www.arenabham.co.uk

New-boy Cook is ready to mix it in the Football League

WALSALL'S Andy Cook believes he has matured into a striker capable of scoring goals in the Football League.

The hit-man became the Saddlers first signing of the summer following three prolific years in non-league football.

During spells at Barrow and Tranmere, Cook scored 75 goals in 134 games. Now the 27-year-old is ready to take that form in League One.

"I feel I've improved a lot over the past few years," Cook said. "I'm 27-years-old and I've been waiting for this chance to play in the Football League."

Boss Dean Keates initially tried to sign Cook while in charge of Wrexham. And the striker admitted he always hoped the boss would come back in for him when he returned to the Saddlers.

"When he came here there was a part of me that was hoping he'd look at me again. So I'm delighted that it's happened," he said.

Saddlers hold a free open training session at Banks's Stadium from 10.30am on August 1. Supporters will also have the chance to have pictures taken with the squad and manager Keates.

Keates backs Zeli to fulfil potential

Come in number 10 – Zeli Ismail

BOSS Dean Keates believes Walsall will provide Zeli Ismail with the perfect environment to fulfil his potential.

The 24-year-old has joined the Saddlers on one-year-deal with a year's option after leaving Bury. It comes after the player shone in a six-month loan deal at Banks's Stadium last season.

But after turning out for eight clubs in the past six years, Keates believes it's time the Wolverhampton-based winger settled down.

"For me we offer the perfect environment for the lad," the boss said.

"He lives 10 minutes away. He is back home and all his family are around him. And that is how I sold it to him. I told him I have every confidence that I can help him push on."

Vice-captain Joe Edwards has signed a one-year contact extension, with the deal including the option of a further 12 months in the club's favour. The versatile midfielder, currently sidelined with an anterior cruciate ligament injury, saw his previous deal with the Saddlers expire at the end of June.

He has made 82 appearances for the Saddlers, scoring 10 goals, since joining on a free from Colchester in 2016. "It feels good to have signed a new deal," Edwards said. "I've really enjoyed my time here."

BATSMEN HIT 50S IN DRAW

THREE batsmen hit half-centuries, but Walsall fell just short of victory in the Birmingham League Premier Division.

Responding to Barnt Green's 263-7, Walsall reached 246-9 to draw the game.

George Hargrave (94) and Matthew Lamb (62) put on 130 for the fourth wicket for the hosts. In reply, Walsall responded with Trevor Keen (63) and Billy Cox (63) adding 136 for the second wicket and Shoaib Akhtar (58) took Walsall close with Zain Ul-Hassan taking 3-42 and Andy Sutton finishing 3-60 for Barnt Green.

Attock squeezed past Streetly by six runs in Division Two after collapsing to 215 all out from a position of 196-2. Arsalaan Mahmood hit 93 before being restricted by Sagar Mangalorkar (5-50) and Akbar Ahmed (3-41). They looked certain winners, however, when Streetly slumped to 136-7. An unbeaten 79 from Mangalorkar inspired a recovery which was finally ended on 208.

Collapsed

Paul Grainger top scored with 62 as Pelsall reached 220-8 against Milford Hall in Division Three. The Staffordshire side then collapsed to 87 all out after a opening 22-over opening burst from Jonathan Moore and Todd Henderson had them at 41-8.

Joe Samuel (52) and Andrew McAree (44) shared an 89 stand as Bloxwich ran up 242 in the Staffs Clubs championships. It was not enough to beat Beacon, however, as an unbeaten 40 from Jarrod Alberts helped them to a one-wicket win.

Walsall YPF tasted victory, their 244 enough to enjoy a 64-run win over Swindon (180).

Kamram Ababasi scored 76 and Mohammad Akmal 40 in a Highcroft & Great Barr total of 267-9. A four-wicket haul from Rizwan Gulzar (4-23) in reply helped them to a 23-run win as Wednesbury 2nds ended on 224-9.

Karl Webster scored 70 as Rushall totalled 244-9. But that was surpassed by West Bromwich Dartmouth 3rds who won by five wickets.

Test of pupils' sporting skills

Tag rugby at The Black Country School Games Summer Festival

MORE than 1,500 young athletes from schools around the Black Country came together for the seventh staging of The Black Country School Games Summer Festival.

Students from more than 80 schools across Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall went head-to-head at The University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus.

After taking part in sportshall athletics, multi-skills, rounders, rugby, cricket, dodgeball, tri-golf, multi-skills SEND, football and duathlon, Wolverhampton were crowned champions – taking home the Joel Richards Black Country School Games Festival Cup for the second year in succession. The city's St Andrew's School won the multi-skills and its Girls' High the rounders.

● More pictures next week

Kinsella to get chance in midfield

WALSALL boss Dean Keates says Liam Kinsella will be given the chance to impress in his favoured central midfield role over the course of pre-season.

The 22-year-old, who has come through the youth ranks at the Banks's Stadium, was converted to a right-back last year by former boss Jon Whitney.

But following talks with Keates, the Republic of Ireland youth international is now set to be restored to the position he plays for his country.

"I've had a good chat with Kins (Kinsella)," Keates said.

"I know he can do a job at right-back because of his energy. He plays on the front foot and he is aggressive.

"He is a terrier. But he feels his best position is in central midfield. I did speak to him and I have to admit that was in my mind anyway.

"It is something we will look at in pre-season."

Meanwhile, Keates revealed he will try to give all his players some match minutes when Walsall face Liam McDonald's Rushall Olympic in their first pre-season friendly at Dales Lane tomorrow night (Friday). Kick-off is 7.30pm.

And Keates confirmed fans will have the chance to see his full squad in action.

"We have got 22 people and they will all get 45 minutes," the boss added.

"I want the whole squad to get minutes. It will be a complete change at half-time.

"It will only be our eighth day of training and we'll still be topping them up."

Hudson-Smith wins British title hat-trick

MATTHEW HUDSON-SMITH is eyeing up next month's European Championships after claiming his third consecutive 400m British title.

The 23-year-old Wolverhampton sprinter blew away the competition at the British Championships at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.

"Happy to get my 3rd consecutive British champs title," he tweeted. "Thanks for all the support, looking forward to Europeans in Berlin."

Hudson-Smith won silver in the 400m at the 2014 European Championships and in 2016 brought home bronze with Great Britain's 4x400m relay team.

★★★

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